

## Non-aggression pact under study

ALMA ATA (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Saturday that the United States, Russia, Britain and Kazakhstan are negotiating a non-aggression treaty. "We would be agreeing to not use force, to use only peaceful means to resolve problems that may emerge between any of these countries," Mr. Perry said in a news conference in the capital of Kazakhstan following a day of meetings with top officials. He cautioned that the agreement, if it is reached, would not amount to a commitment by the United States to provide military protection to Kazakhstan. "It is an assurance, it is not a guarantee. It is not a statement that we would go to war on any issue that arose with Kazakhstan," Mr. Perry said. The announcement capped a day of closed-door discussions on nuclear disarmament and defence conversion in the second-largest of the former Soviet republics.



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## Jordan welcomes Croat-Muslim deal

AMMAN (R) — Jordan on Saturday welcomed a Croat-Muslim pact as part of moves for an overall settlement of the Bosnian conflict and expressed hope Serbs would join the effort to ensure lasting peace. "We back the peace agreement that was reached between the Muslim Bosnians and the Croats," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said after a regular Council of Ministers meeting. "But we hope that the Serb side will enter this process because their staying outside the peace equation leaves the area threatened," he told reporters (Related story on page 8).

## Mortal wounds in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AP) — Three people, including two children, were wounded Saturday when a mortar round slammed into a residential neighbourhood of Sarajevo, hospital officials said. It was the first major violation of the Bosnian capital's five-week-old ceasefire. Witnesses said the mortar hit at 5:10 p.m. in the Alipasino Polje section of Sarajevo, a series of high-rise apartment buildings frequently targeted by gunners during the city's 23-month siege. Doctors at Sarajevo's state hospital said a man and his son were in surgery with serious shrapnel wounds and the boy's legs may have to be amputated. (See related story on page 8).

## Iraq said to offer prisoner swap

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq has offered to swap hundreds of Kuwaiti prisoners believed held in its jails for 11 Iraqis on trial in Kuwait for allegedly plotting to kill former President George Bush, a newspaper reported Saturday. The English-language daily Kuwait Times quoted an anonymous "top Gulf official" as saying Iraq had requested Gulf mediators discuss the offer with Kuwait. The report could not be confirmed.

## Baku metro blast kills at least 10

BAKU (AP) — A remote-controlled bomb exploded in a crowded Baku metro station Saturday, killing at least 10 people, authorities said. A spokesman for the national security ministry, Mirsahab Abudov, called it an act of terrorism and said the final toll of dead and injured was expected to rise. The device exploded at about 2 p.m. local time (1000 GMT) in the 20th of January metro station as a train pulled in, witnesses said.

## Khmer Rouge HQ falls

RATTANAK MONDOL, Cambodia (AP) — The government captured the Khmer Rouge headquarters of Pailin on Saturday, two days after launching an all-out offensive on the guerrilla base, senior officers said. "The government controls 100 per cent of Pailin as of 6 p.m.," General Por Vannak told reporters Saturday night. Defence Minister Tea Banh confirmed in Phnom Penh that Gen. Por Vannak's statement was correct. (See page 8).

## U.N. team due in Iraq today

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.N. weapons experts are heading for Baghdad Sunday to take air samples that will detect any future Iraqi attempts to revive the manufacture of prohibited chemical weapons. Gerald Brubaker, an American leading the six-member team, said the group would concentrate its efforts in the area of Muthanna. Muthanna is the sprawling government facility outside Baghdad where a U.N. team for more than a year has been disposing of Iraq's arsenal of chemical weapons and material bombed by U.S.-led coalition warplanes during the Gulf war. Mr. Brubaker's team will use sophisticated tubes to absorb air from the site being checked.

# Israel, PLO to discuss security, talks resumption

Shahak due in Tunis; Peres and Shaath say self-rule accord timetable could be honoured

## Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moved closer Saturday to resuming autonomy talks, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israeli troops could be out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho within a month after a return to the negotiating table.

A senior Israeli delegation, reportedly including chief autonomy negotiator General Amnon Shabak, was to leave Sunday for meetings with PLO leaders in Tunis. The two sides are to find ways to improve Palestinian security in the occupied territories and resume the peace talks.

The PLO broke off negotiations on starting limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho after a Jewish settler massacred dozens of Palestinians in a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25.

In Tunis, PLO spokesman Yasser Abed-Rabbo cautioned that the long-awaited Security Council resolution passed on Friday night was so far just "a piece of paper."

He said the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, must act urgently to implement the resolution's most important aspect — a temporary international presence to ensure Palestinians' security in the occupied territories.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a news

conference in Washington that Israel and the PLO would soon hold senior-level talks on security issues and possible resumption "at an early time" of bilateral peace negotiations.

"This is not enough," he said. "What is required are tangible steps to provide safety and security for Palestinians."

His comments were echoed by Sakhri Habash, a member of the central committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction.

"Virtual deadlock led Israel to postpone the start of its troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho which under the terms of the peace accord signed in Washington last September was to have begun on Dec. 13 and finish by April 13."

PLO negotiator Shaath said Israel was still able to complete its pullout by the deadline, less than four weeks away.

"Practically, the Israelis started withdrawing and began taking all their equipment and documents and closed many of their headquarters. This means an important part of the withdrawal if not all of it can be accomplished by April 13," Dr. Shaath said.

He said it was important to have an organised withdrawal "so as not to have any vacuum between the departure of the Israeli troops and the entrance of the Palestinian forces."

PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghosheh was

more downbeat about the possibility of soon resuming PLO-Israeli negotiations.

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# Jordan welcomes U.N. move, awaits consultations

By Nermene Murad  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Jordan will await a consensus among Arab parties to Middle East peace negotiations before it takes final decision on resuming rounds of bilateral talks in Washington, Information Minister Jawad Anani told the *Jordan Times* Saturday.

Dr. Anani said the Kingdom welcomed the Security Council's resolution condemning the massacre but expressed reservations over Washington's decision to abstain from voting on the part of the resolution that described Arab East Jerusalem as Israeli-occupied territory.

"We need an Arab decision," Dr. Anani said. His comments came after a cabinet meeting Saturday during which details of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre were discussed.

Dr. Anani said that the decision to "cut short" bilateral talks in the U.S. capital in protest after the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron by an extremist Jewish settler was taken within an Arab context and had to be similarly reversed.

"We hope that the Israeli

statements that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel have not received a boost by the American vote," said Dr. Anani.

He said that Jordan had been made to understand that the U.S. abstention "was in line with what they said was the terms of the Oslo agreement which delegates the negotiations over Jerusalem to final status talks."

"But our position is that Jerusalem is an occupied territory regardless of when its final status is to be negotiated," Dr. Anani added.

The minister, however, de-

(Continued on page 5)

# Security Council resolution fails to impress PLO officials

By Mariam M. Shahin  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — One day after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution condemning the Feb. 25 massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron most Palestinian groups argued against resumption of peace talks with Israel.

Palestinian negotiators also said Saturday that Israel must do more to safeguard Palestinians. "We demand from Israel to take immediate and practical steps to protect the Palestinians," said Faisal Husseini, chief PLO official in occupied Jerusalem.

"The Israelis are repeating the same positions, and this is not acceptable," added negotiator Saeb Erakat.

The resolution as a whole

was welcomed by Tunis-based PLO officials. But the way the U.S. handled it was "very disturbing," said a senior PLO official.

"I took them three weeks, and now the U.S. is no longer sure if East Jerusalem is an occupied territory — something that has been established as fact since 1967. How can we be encouraged by a resolution which was passed half-heartedly?" asked a Tunis-based member of the PLO Executive Committee.

"We specifically said we want to see measures on the ground that create protection for the Palestinian population living under occupation," he said. "As far as we can see

there is no immediate call for action which would guarantee such security," said the PLO official, who preferred anonymity.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was meeting with seven Tunis-based executive committee members as well as Palestine National Council members based at the Tunis headquarters Saturday afternoon. The meeting was to review if the PLO would indeed return to the negotiating table or insist on further action by the Israeli government to secure the safety of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

U.S. Secretary of State War-

(Continued on page 10)

# 5-year plan aims at raising standard of living — King

King Hussein wrote,

"Free individual initiative in the economic and social fields goes hand in hand with the right to freedom of expression in the political arena practised within the framework of democracy and political pluralism and national unity," the King wrote.

In an introduction he wrote for the 1993-1997 five-year National Economic Development Plan, King Hussein said that the new five-year plan "will not be a carbon copy of its predecessors. It has been designed to cater to the country's needs in the last phase of the 20th century." He voiced deep appreciation to those who contributed to working out the plan.

Presenting the plan, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said the share of the public sector was estimated at JD1,874 million while the private sector was given a share of JD3,369 million.

# House votes to disband all municipal councils by end of 1994 and call polls

By Suheir Obeidat  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday passed a controversial article in a draft law on municipalities annulling all municipalities by Dec. 31, 1994 and setting elections for all municipalities on a single day in the first half of July 1995.

Article four, as it came in the draft law prepared by the government, had excluded the Municipality of Greater Amman and asked that the annulment and election days be set by the government.

The article in the draft law, as passed by the House, provides for the appointment of temporary local municipal committees for the annulled councils or those the term of which ended until new elections are held.

The government's version of the article called for the appointment of committees by

a general examination certificate (for districts) and be able to read and write (in subdistricts and areas).

The original version only asked that all candidates be literate.

While some deputies opposed this new item on grounds that some candidates might not have a higher education but could be of a calibre that qualifies them to head municipal councils.

Deputy Abdul Karim Dughmi, the judicial committee's rapporteur, argued that handling of municipal affairs requires managerial, executive and technical skills normally available in educated persons.

The House also passed an article on the classification of municipalities according to population.

In their lengthy debates of the draft law, the deputies only managed to get through six

(Continued on page 5)



Two Israeli soldiers open fire at young Palestinian stone throwers in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo)

# Syria: Talks with Israel must focus on territory

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said on Saturday it would meet Jordan and Lebanon shortly to discuss next month's resumption of peace talks with Israel but insisted there could be no progress without Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands.

An official spokesman welcomed Friday's U.N. Security Council vote condemning the Hebron mosque massacre and said the three Arab partners had agreed to resume the peace talks that were suspended in February to protest at the killings.

But he made no specific mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Syria will call the Arab parties involved in the peace talks with Israel to meet soon to discuss resumption of the peace talks in April," the spokesman said.

Diplomats in Damascus did not rule out Palestinian participation in the meeting. "The PLO has clearly expressed a keen interest to rejoin the coordination talks but it is still unclear whether any decision was taken by the other Arabs," one Arab diplomat said.

"Syria considers the issue of the Security Council resolution ... and the resumption of the peace talks would provide measures and arrangements by the world community that would ensure protection of our brothers in the occupied Arab lands to prevent repetition of such ugly crimes," the spokesman said.

The Syrian leader tele-

phoned King Hussein and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi after his conversation with Mr. Clinton to coordinate positions.

In addition to condemning the massacre against the unarmed Palestinian worshippers ... confirm to the world the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and reaching a just and comprehensive peace without any delay," the spokesman said.

Officials said U.S. President Bill Clinton had been in constant telephone contact with President Hafez Al Assad in the runup to the U.N. vote and had discussed the draft resolution.

They said Mr. Assad felt the U.N. resolution would lead to more protection of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and would prevent any more massacres.

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François said the U.N. resolution must prompt a resumption of talks between the PLO and Israel.

Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said in a state-

(Continued on page 5)

# 15 injured in W. Bank and Gaza

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 15 Palestinians in protests in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank on Saturday. Arab sources said.

The soldiers wounded 10 Palestinian youths, two of them seriously, in clashes in the Nablus and Ramallah areas in the West Bank. The demonstrators hurled stones at the troops.

Soldiers wounded five more Palestinians in clashes in the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, hospital sources said.

The army said it received reports of eight Arabs wounded by plastic and rubber bullets fired by soldiers.

In Gaza, Palestinians on Saturday observed the third day of a general strike called by Hamas to protest the killing of one of its members by troops.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, about 1,000 Palestinians marched in protest against Friday's U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron mosque massacre last month.

They burned U.S. and Israeli flags, witnesses said.

The Security Council resolution calls for a temporary international or foreign presence, as provided for in the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last September, to ensure the protection of Palestinians.

A Palestinian teenager was killed and another...ously wounded in the West Bank on Saturday by an old Israeli army explosive device, Arab sources said.

Relatives said Ala Mansour Abu Dawas, 15, was killed when he and his cousin played with the device in Aqaba near Jenin.

Israeli Radio said the boys were apparently preparing an explosive device that blew up prematurely.

But Palestinian reporters said the blast occurred near an area used by the Israeli army and that the boys apparently found a discarded explosive and played with it.

## Security Council fails to agree on Iraq statement

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has divided the Security Council so deeply that the 15-member body was unable to agree on a public statement on Baghdad's compliance with 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms.

But whether discussions in the council this past week will help Iraq get sanctions on its oil exports lifted is doubtful.

The United States remained firm that Iraq had to comply with more than narrow legal requirements in a 1991 post-Gulf war resolution to get the embargo eased.

And unless the five permanent members of the council are united, the sanctions imposed in August 1990 after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait will remain in place indefinitely.

No council member advocated lifting or easing sanctions before U.N. inspectors complete a programme to ensure Iraq does not reacquire weapons of mass destruction. The surveillance measures are not expected to be in place for months.

But France, China and Russia sought to encourage Iraq to continue cooperating with U.N. arms officials by acknowledging Baghdad's progress to date in a statement.

The United States and Britain, the other two permanent members of the council, refused.

In the end the 15-member body council, for the first time in three years, did not issue any statement Friday on its 60-day regular review of Iraqi sanctions, a clear sign of the growing split on how to handle Iraq in the future.

Russia went public and read a press statement advocating lifting the oil embargo once

disarmament requirements are met.

Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov also urged the U.N. Special Commission, dismantling Iraq's weapons, to set a timetable to complete its work.

But Mr. Vorontsov, reflecting the opinion of most council members, insisted that Iraq should immediately "recognise the sovereignty and the borders of Kuwait."

France and China had taken similar positions in council consultations late last year and Brazil has followed suit.

Resolution 687, adopted by the council at the end of the 1991 Gulf war, ties exports from Iraq to weapons requirements while imports to Iraq depend on compliance with a host of other council demands.

Russia, France, China and Brazil want the council to abide by the resolution. The United States, backed in part by Britain, says Iraq must show a pattern of compliance on a variety of issues so that the council can have confidence it won't rearm once oil sanctions are lifted.

To bolster the U.S. argument, Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the council in a closed session that Iraq was massing Republican Guards in Kurdish areas in the north and was putting its forces on a higher state of alert. But neither she nor her spokesman could give further details.

"We do not know whether [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein intends to renew his offensive against his own people, but he clearly wishes to intimidate them, as well as the Security Council," Ms. Albright told the council.

Ms. Albright reportedly said Iraq's military manoeuvres de-

fied a U.N. resolution requiring Iraq to end repression of its civilians, Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south.

China, Pakistan and other non-aligned council members have argued that Iraq should be encouraged by public recognition of its progress in satisfying weapons inspectors.

Conditions for lifting the oil embargo are different than the broader conditions for lifting the overall trade embargo. Iraq must meet certain weapons-related conditions for lifting the oil embargo, including full declaration of prohibited arms, their destruction and acceptance of long-term monitoring.

Baghdad Radio reported that Iraqis held a second day of mass rallies Friday to protest the renewal of U.N. sanctions against their country. No details were given on the size of the demonstrations.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was in New

York for the week lobbying Security Council members. Iraqi officials have also visited various capitals of council members, including Paris, Moscow and Abuja in Nigeria.

Mr. Aziz was leading a high-level technical team to discuss the continuing disarmament process and convince the U.N. Special Commission to move faster.

But an official on the commission said: "We can't take short cuts or it will cost more time in the long run."

The technical team is expected to leave Sunday and Mr. Aziz will go back to Baghdad Tuesday, after meeting Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Monday.



Palestinian activists stage a march in the occupied Gaza Strip on Friday (AFP photo)

## Bosphorus polluted by tanker

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has reopened the Bosphorus after putting out a fire on an oil tanker which collided with a freighter, but bad weather was hampering clean-up efforts.

State Minister for Maritime Affairs Ibrahim Tez said fire on the Cyprus-flagged tanker Nassa had been extinguished.

Mr. Tez was leading a high-level technical team to discuss the continuing disarmament process and convince the U.N. Special Commission to move faster.

"It's a real mess," Greenpeace oil campaigner Willems-Jan Goossen said in a Greenpeace statement. "There is a lot of oil out on the Black Sea. And as wind conditions worsen with the wind turning north, there is the risk of oil floating ashore."

Mr. Keskin said the authorities, concentrating on fighting the fire, had responded inadequately to the pollution threat.

"It's as if the whole thing was totally unexpected," he said. "Each year thousands of tankers pass through the Bosphorus. There was a similar disaster 15 years ago, but the authorities just do not seem prepared for anything like it."

The Bosphorus has opened to one-way traffic with priority to passenger ships and small ships waiting in the Black Sea because of bad weather there," Mr. Tez told Anatolia news agency.

"If our plan goes as expected

it will take three days for all ships to pass," said Istanbul Port Authority chief Ismail Sefci Er after the waterway reopened at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) on Friday.

Twenty-nine seamen were feared killed in the collision between the Nassa and the Cyprus-flagged freighter Shipbreaker, whose burned-out hull is still grounded in the Bosphorus.

"No one has gone on board the Nassa yet because the metal is still too hot," Ercan Yalcin, chief of the Karaburun

coastguard station in the Black Sea, told Reuters.

The Nassa had been carrying 98,500 tonnes of crude oil. Ali Riza Yilmaz, an Environment Ministry official, said 19,800 tonnes had burned on the tanker or in the sea.

"Most of the pollution in the Bosphorus and the Black Sea was caused by the remains of burnt oil and chemical foams used to extinguish the tanker blaze," Mr. Yilmaz told a news conference.

He said large, thin layers of oil remains had been monitored in 60 per cent of the 30-kilometre Bosphorus.

Istanbul Provincial Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu said mechanical methods would be used to clear the pollution, rather than chemicals which would cause the oil to sink to the seabed.

He said the government would demand compensation from the insurers of the two ships, but gave no figures.

The accident, the worst in the Bosphorus in 15 years, highlighted Turkey's concerns about the risks of increased shipping to the safety of Istanbul's 10 million people.

The government announced it would speed up plans to install a \$100 million navigation system in the Bosphorus, Marmara Sea and Dardanelles and implement new safety rules from July 1.

## Thai police probe links to bomb truck

BANGKOK (AP) — Police are tracking down four foreigners who may have plotted to destroy the Israeli embassy here, and are looking into possible links with last year's bombing of the New York World Trade Centre, the National reported Saturday.

The English-language daily quoted a chief investigator as saying police would issue arrest warrants after discovering a house where they believe a powerful truck-bomb targeted against the embassy was assembled.

Police Colonel Thammarong Wongpaen said police searching the house uncovered the same explosives as found in the bomb-laden truck last Friday.

Police quoted the house owner as saying she rented the premises to four foreigners, described as "Arabs" by neighbours.

By sheer good luck, police found an abandoned six-wheel truck some 500 metres from the Israeli embassy which con-

tained large quantities of C-4 plastic explosives and diesel oil and a one-tonne water tank filled with ammonium nitrate — a fertiliser which could enhance a bomb's explosive effect.

It was wired to a detonating switch on the truck's dashboard. The body of a Thai man also was found in the truck.

Police experts said the bomb could have destroyed a large building. The truck bomb that severely damaged New York's World Trade Centre also was believed to have been ammonium nitrate detonated by another explosive.

Col. Sittiporn Noanjai of the crime suppression division said Friday a link to the Feb. 26 New York blast was being investigated.

Earlier this year police distributed photographs of three Pakistanis, wanted by the United States in connection with the New York attack. The three were believed hiding in Thailand.

What could have been a major disaster was averted by luck.

The driver of the truck, a man described as in his 30s and Middle Eastern in appearance, abandoned the truck after he accidentally hit two motorcyclists parked in front of a department store last Friday.

He fled after trying to offer compensation in foreign currency to the motorcyclists.

Police drove the truck to a police station, where it remained until the truck owner went to claim it Thursday. Noticing the water tank, the owner asked police to check the contents.

The body found in the truck was identified as an employee who had delivered the truck to the man who rented it. The employee had been beaten and strangled.

Police have since stepped up security around the Israeli embassy as well as those of other countries involved in Middle Eastern conflicts.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### North slams southern Yemeni leader

SANA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh's political party on Saturday strongly criticised remarks by rival Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, accusing him of leading a separatist group within his party. "We regret the issuing of such a statement... it makes clear the desire for the return of the totalitarian spirit," said a statement by Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC). Mr. Beidh, leader of former South Yemen before it merged with the north in 1990, told the Dubai-based daily Gulf News that southerners were so disenchanted with the merger that a majority, if asked, would vote for a return of an independent South Yemen. "Our people are sick and tired of the violence which the union has brought... Indeed, if a referendum were to be held, for example, in the eastern and southern governorates (which constituted the former South Yemen), there would be a clear majority in favour of South Yemen reverting its former statehood."

### Hizbullah: Israeli raid killed two

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli planes killed two guerrillas in a Thursday bombing raid in South Lebanon, Hizbullah (Party of God) said on Saturday. The planes bombed a guerrilla-held area hours after Israeli troops ambushed and killed three Hizbullah guerrillas trying to infiltrate Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon. Hizbullah said at the time that the air raid caused no casualties.

### Iraqi battalions join opposition

NICOSIA (AP) — A rebel group said Saturday that two Iraqi battalions had joined opposition forces in Iraq's north, the Islamic Republic News Agency (SCRI) reported. The agency quoted the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SCI), a coalition of Shiite Muslim forces opposed to the Baghdad regime, as saying in a statement that there were six officers among the deserters. SCRI said the battalions were stationed between the Chanchmel region in Kirkuk province and the territory under the control of the self-declared government of northern Iraq, according to the IRNA report monitored in Cyprus. The opposition group said the number of deserters was increasing because of Iraq's harsh economic conditions and the country's isolation. It was not possible to confirm the report.

### Turkish candidate's election office attacked

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Separatist Kurdish guerrillas reportedly hurled hand grenades into a political campaign office in this southeastern city Friday, injuring 17 people. The election office belonged to Tahir Aktas, a candidate of the Social Democrat Populist Party, which is the junior coalition partner in Turkey's government. One of the two assailants was captured, according to the Anatolia news agency. Kurdish guerrillas have been threatening political parties in the region with violence unless they withdraw from local elections scheduled for March 27. The guerrillas are from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984 in a war which has left 12,000 people dead. The Democracy Party, which is believed to have close ties with the PKK, decided to boycott the elections to protest what it called military repression of its party and the Kurdish electorate.

### Canadian jailed in death of Somali

PETAWAWA, Ontario (AP) — A 25-year-old Canadian soldier was sentenced to five years in prison and given a dishonourable discharge Friday for his role in the beating death of a 16-year-old boy in Somalia. Private Elvin Kyle Brown was sentenced by the same five officer-military court that convicted him Wednesday of manslaughter and torture. It was the first torture conviction in Canada. He could have drawn a life sentence. Mr. Brown may appeal. Military trials of five other soldiers and officers charged in the May 16, 1993, death of Shidane Arone will be held later this year. Arone was arrested after creeping into an abandoned compound next to the camp of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, which was on a peacekeeping mission in Somalia. Taken as a would-be thief, he was bound hand and foot and beaten. The soles of his feet were burned with cigarettes. Mr. Brown admitted punching Arone once and kicking him, but said another soldier inflicted most of the injuries.

### Tremor hits south Iran, no casualties reported

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale jolted on Friday an area of southern Iran where a tremor killed six people earlier this month, Iran's IRNA news agency reported. There were no reports of casualties or damage from the latest quake which shook Firuzabad, a main centre of the semi-nomadic Qashqai tribe 760 kilometres south of Tehran, it said. On March 1 a quake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale killed six people and destroyed 3,000 houses around Firuzabad, which is far from main oil producing centres in southwest Iran. More than a dozen aftershocks hit the area over the following week.

### Coptic Christians protest killing

JERSEY CITY (AP) — About 100 Coptic Christians demonstrated Friday to protest last week's slaying of a Jersey City man outside a monastery in southern Egypt. The marchers said they want to bring attention to the killing of Coptic Christians in Egypt in the hope that the United States and Egyptian governments act to stop the violence. The marchers, gathered in downtown Jersey City, chanted "Our blood is not cheap" and "we love Jesus." The group was protesting the death of St. Shafiq Sieff Makar, who was among six people killed last week outside the 1,600-year-old Deir Al Muhabba Monastery, which is considered one of the most important landmarks of Egypt's Coptic Christian faith. Makar was shot March 11 by gunmen in Assiut, a stronghold of militants in southern Egypt. Two priests and three others also were killed.

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00	Damascus (AZ)	Dep. Amman .....	8:00 a.m. every Monday
12:25	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)	Arr. Damascus .....	5:00 p.m. every Monday
14:25	Moscow (SU)	Dep. Damascus .....	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
19:40	Larnaca (CY)	Arr. Damascus .....	5:00 p.m. every Sunday
19:45	Beirut (ME)	Dep. Amman .....	
20:05	Cairo (MS)	Arr. Amman .....	
22:20	Istanbul (TA)	Dep. Amman .....	

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman .....	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus .....	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Larnaca .....	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman .....	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30	Aqaba (RJ)	Apples .....	550/650
06:00	Beirut (RJ)	Bananas .....	600
07:00	Aqaba, Rome, Frankfurt (RJ)	Banana (Mukammer) .....	620
08:30	Frankfurt, Paris (RJ)	Cabbage .....	260/180
10:45	Tunis (add) (RJ)	Carrot .....	200/120
11:15	Vienna (RJ)	Cauliflower .....	80/40
11:25	Tunis, Cassino (RJ)	Clementine .....	260/200
11:30	Rome (RJ)	Cucumbers (large) .....	120/70
12:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	Cucumbers (small) .....	260/180
12:45	Atlanta (RJ)	Eggplant .....	300/180
14:00	Paris, Brussels (RJ)	Garlic .....	1100/800
14:45	Riyadh (RJ)	Grape Fruit .....	240/180
15:15	Larnaca (RJ)	Green beans .....	550/450
16:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	Leek .....	180/100
17:00	Bahrain (RJ)	Marrow (large) .....	200/120
17:25	New Delhi (RJ)	Marrow (small) .....	200/120
19:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	Olives (green) .....	100/50
21:30	Bangkok (RJ)	Onion (dry) .....	400/200
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)	Onion (	

20, 1994

# Home News

## Crown Prince Hassan turns 47

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan today celebrates his 47th birthday.

Prince Hassan was born in Amman in 1947 and is the youngest of the late King Talal's three sons. He was proclaimed Crown Prince by Royal Decree in 1965. Among his multitude of responsibilities in the local, regional and international arenas is his active role in the advancement of peace, democracy and human rights at home and abroad, as well as his keen interest in humanitarian causes and international law.

In June last year Prince Hassan addressed the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, saying that while he strongly believed in the universality of human rights, the improvement of human rights conditions worldwide was contingent on the improvement of economic and social rights.

The Crown Prince has often stressed a concept of strategic policy that directs attention to social, economic and environmental strategies among others.

Most recently, Prince Has-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath seen here with their children (right to left) Princess Badia, son was in Croatia where he visited the 3,000 Jordanian security personnel serving with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia.



Family, friends and colleagues Saturday gather at the Palace of Culture to attend a eulogy ceremony for the late Bahjat Talhouni (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)



## Bahjat Talhouni eulogised in special ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid to represent him at a eulogy ceremony held to commemorate 40 days since the passing of former prime minister and senior statesman Bahjat Talhouni.

Speakers at the ceremony, which was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, members of Parliament and senior officials, included Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Tamer Masri, Ahmad Tarawneh, Musa Abu Ragheb, Nasereddin Al Assad, Kamal Shaer and Tawfiq Kreishan.

Mr. Lawzi said Mr. Talhouni had served as prime minister several times during the "most crucial stages of the history of Jordan," after serving as a member in the

first Cabinet formed by His Majesty King Hussein.

"Mr. Talhouni will be immortalised in the history of Jordan as one of its most loyal men who left their distinct marks on its political, march and comprehensive development," said Mr. Lawzi.

House Speaker Masri remarked that in addition to Mr. Talhouni's achievements in politics, he always remembered that he had a role in the social development process and thus played a key part in the establishment of several educational institutions and charitable and voluntary societies.

Speaking of Mr. Talhouni's active contributions to the development of the Kingdom during the past 50 years in senior judicial and government posts, Senator Tarawneh said "he had translated

his love for Jordan and his allegiance to its regime into useful and continuous work and efforts."

Senator and literary scholar Assad recited a poem praising Mr. Talhouni and highlighting his role in the history of the nation.

Another colleague, Senator Shaer, also praised the late Mr. Talhouni, saying that over several decades his name had become synonymous with loyalty and sacrifice for the sake of the homeland.

Deputy Tawfiq Kreishan said Mr. Talhouni was always an active statesman and had never shirked his duty towards his country and the Arab Nation, adding that Mr. Talhouni was a strong proponent of Arab unity and solidarity.

Mr. Abu Ragheb por-

trayed Mr. Talhouni as one of the soldiers of Jordan in all aspects of his life; a soldier in his adherence to his principles and a soldier in his patriotism.

Adnan Talhouni, the elder son of the deceased, addressed the attendees on behalf of the Talhouni family and thanked them for their compassion and words of consolation.

"Before his passing, my father had always believed that he was one of you, and that you were his family and tribe. After his death, every one of us, his children and family, believes and prides himself that he is one of you and that you are our family," he said.

Bahjat Talhouni, who served his country until his death at the age of 80, was laid to rest in the Royal Cemetery on Jan. 31, 1994.

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## House endorses protocol for FF 83m loan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed a draft financial protocol under which Jordan would receive a French soft loan of \$83 million French francs.

The loan, which will be granted for a period of 20 years, will finance the purchase of French goods and services for the completion of the gas-generating units project in Sabab. The protocol allows for a grace period of 10 years with an annual interest of one per cent.

The loan would only be valid if contracts were signed before Dec. 31, 1994 and all related

contracts to the financed project should be approved within 3 months of that date.

Lawmakers approved the draft financial protocol after agreeing that it would enhance French-Jordanian relations. The protocol does not allow withdrawing funds after Dec. 31, 1997 unless both governments agree on delaying that deadline if the need arises.

The protocol, which will be considered valid when signed by both governments, enables French officials to conduct financial evaluations of the financed projects and their effect on Jordan's financial growth. The Jordanian government may contribute in such evaluations by facilitating the work of the

French committee concerned and giving it access to helpful information related to the evaluation.

Copies of the contracts were signed by the Jordanian and French governments on Jan. 13, 1994, and the joint agreement will be considered valid as of that date if it is approved by the Upper House of Parliament.

During the session, Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Farhan answered a question raised by Deputy Farah Tabatabai concerning planting fruit-bearing plants to replace forest trees. Mr. Farhan said that orders concerning the process of planting such trees were

issued annually.

The House unanimously agreed to reject a bid filed by several deputies contesting election results in Irbid District. Lawmakers also rejected the request filed by Minister of Justice Taher Hikmat to strip deputies Hamzeh Mansour, Abdul Rahim Okour and Mohammad Oweidah of their diplomatic immunity after the complaint raised against them by Islamist Ziad Abu Ghaniem.

The Lower House also referred to its Managerial Committee several suggestions by deputies concerning services in their districts.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, congratulating him on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Ali good health and happiness and the Tunisian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Stamp to mark Crown Prince's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs Saturday decided to issue the first commemorative stamps of 1994 marking the 47th birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, which falls today. Ministry Secretary General Abdullah Al Jazi said he hoped that the issuance would reflect the efforts exerted by the Crown Prince in supporting and chairing the board of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation in carrying out its humanitarian role at the Arab and international levels. The stamps would be issued in two denominations: 80 fils and 125 fils. Dr. Jazi added that they would be available at all post offices around the Kingdom and at the ministry.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Opening of an exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa at 6:00 p.m. Also showing "permanence" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abd Al Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzouz and Asma Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abdullah at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Amer Mohammad Rashed entitled "A Thousand and One Nights" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

#### FILM

- ★ Film entitled "White Hunter, Black Heart" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (110 minutes).

## Dams still below capacity

### JVA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite recent rains the country's dams are still far below capacity, according to Abdul Aziz Wishah, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Wishah said rainfall between March 10 and 16 was estimated at 3.7 million cubic metres which was far less than expected.

Dr. Wishah explained that the rainwater did not reach the reservoirs because the soil was not sufficiently saturated to allow rainwater to flow on the surface and run down to the streams.

He said the King Talal Dam, the largest in the country, received an estimated 2.4 million cubic metres during this period.

Dr. Wishah said last month the total amount of water in the King Talal Dam was estimated at 48 million cubic metres out of a total capacity of 80 million.

He said Wadi Shueib Dam received 165,000 cubic metres, Kafrein Dam 175,000, Sharhabil Dam 160,000 cubic metres.

## Agricultural credit corporation to reschedule farmers' debts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) Saturday announced plans to reschedule farmers' debts to the corporation.

ACC Director General Mohammad Abdul Salam Arabyat said the move was aimed at alleviating difficulties facing the farmers including marketing their crops, low prices of agricultural produce and damage to farmlands as a result of unfavourable climatic conditions in the past two years.

The ACC has taken the decision despite it adversely affecting the corporation's liquidity and its ability to fully honour its financial obligations in the coming years, said Mr. Arabyat.

The ACC is committed to repaying the funds it had loaned to the farmers, plus interest, to foreign creditors, as well as cover its own administrative expenses, said the ACC chief.

Earlier this month, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh said the government was conducting a comprehensive revision of the agricultural sector in order to tackle impediments to production and marketing.

Jordan Valley farmers had threatened to strike to urge the government to help them market their products locally and abroad and deal with their ACC chief.

Woman selects lemons from roadside stand. The recent low market price of the fruit has been among grievances of farmers and citrus growers in the Kingdom (Photo by Ainsley Floyd)

other grievances.

Mr. Arabyat said the ACC decision will be implemented in accordance with a plan that entails case by case studies before rescheduling of loans can be approved.

He said arrangements will be

made whereby each indebted farmer will be able to repay the loans and interests over an extended period.

Mr. Arabyat added that a special technical committee has been formed to study each case and give priority to farmers with severe difficulties.

## 2nd Jordanian bank is licensed to open in occupied territories

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Land Bank has received Israeli license to reopen two branches in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and plans to start operations in late April, banking officials said Saturday.

They said the bank, whose headquarters are in Cairo, received the licenses from the Bank of Israel last week after the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) issued preliminary licenses.

The bank is seeking to reopen up to five branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but it received Israeli approvals for only one branch in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and the other in the Gaza Strip, they said.

The Arab Land Bank became the second known Jordanian bank to get Israeli licenses in line with a memorandum

of understanding signed by Jordan and Israel in December.

The Bank of Jordan got an Israeli license last week to reopen a branch in Ramallah in the West Bank.

Other Jordanian banks which have received preliminary licenses from the CBJ include the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest commercial bank, the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the Jordan National Bank. The CBJ is known to have issued preliminary licenses for a total of eight branches of the five banks.

The applications of Jordanian banks for Israeli licenses were being processed, a bank of Israel spokesman said last week.

Jordan closed all 31 branches of eight banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Israel occupied the territories in the 1967 war.

One of them, the Cairo-Amman bank, reopened in 1986 under a special arrangement.

occupied territories was warranted since the Jordanian dinar will be in circulation in the occupied territories, and it was up to the Palestinians to decide what should be their "legal tender."

"As long as the dinar remains in circulation in the occupied territories, the Central Bank of Jordan will be in control of the banks that deal in Jordanian dinars," said a senior official.

Jordan followed up the memorandum with an agreement on economic cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is poised to lead Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord on five years of interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

Most of the banks that plan to reopen their branches in the occupied territories have been preparing for the move for several months now. All of them have also been offering training to staff from the occupied territories at their Amman branches and head offices.

## More massacre victims to arrive for treatment

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The national committee charged with fundraising for the victims of the Hebron massacre expects more wounded to arrive in Jordan in the coming days for medical treatment at Jordanian hospitals, according to committee spokesman Ahmad Helayel.

The committee is also awaiting the arrival in Amman soon

of a Hebron panel to discuss allocations to the families of those killed or wounded in the Feb. 25 massacre in which more than 60 Muslim worshippers were killed and hundreds wounded, Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times.

The Jordanian and the Hebrew committees should meet in order to apportion the donations accordingly said Dr. Helayel, adding that the size of the families of the massacre

victims would be considered.

He said the funds raised so far in Jordan have reached JD 800,000, and more continue to come in from the governors.

The national committee met Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddin Al Khateeb Al Tamimi to review the funds collected and the donor lists as well as the fund-raising activities in the governorates, said

Dr. Helayel who is also secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

He said committee members Saturday visited the four of the wounded now being treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre and gave each one JD 1,000 as part of the contributions.

The four victims who arrived for treatment here Friday are Imad Suleiman, Jihad Abu Minshar, Talal Abu Seneh and Mohammad Jaabar.

## Introspect artist seeks new way of expression

By Ica Wahbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sober, monumental, refreshing, the sculptures Samer Tabbaa exhibits at the Darat Al Funun are ingenious works of an introspect artist seeking new ways of expression.

Making use of conventional and less traditional media, Mr. Tabbaa's representations are impressive, dominating, imposing. Wood is covered with tar in a four-square panel to create a huge "black hole," or covered with a layer of cement and glue and painted over with pastel, varnish or acrylic to represent abstract figures and give movement and depth to the sculptures.

The dedicated artist has worked on most of his creations on display for two years, but some had been started 14 years ago and ever since touches here and there were added to reach the present state.

The three-dimensional figures are ingeniously carved and nearly shaped, with painstaking attention to detail.

that creates original figures.

Metal is worked with love and care. Not twisted, wrung, contorted, violently distorted out of shape representations for the artist. He takes his metal sheets to Aqaba to rust on the beach before working on them with pencil or gently works on them to give them steel appearance. Painted or inked over, in its natural state, cut or welded, the metal is treated with respect, almost reverently.

Parallel lines are a recurrent motif with the artist. They appear in sculptures but also in his drawings performed on paper with acrylic, graphite, charcoal and pencil.

The lines are vertical, horizontal, sinuous, criss-crossing in both his bi- and tri-dimensional works. They create space and movement, restrict and free, tease the eye and challenge it to find meanings and soar.

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## Challenge after resolution

WHILE THE U.N. Security Council resolution that was adopted Friday on the Hebron massacre brought forth immediate results culminating in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO accepting to rejoin the peace talks, the price for its passage was not insignificant. What held up the endorsement of this resolution that finally condemned the slaughter of over sixty Palestinian worshippers last month was the issue of Jerusalem. Washington got its way by first putting the reference to Jerusalem in the preamble paragraphs of the resolution and then by abstaining on it in spite of this downgrading. What is puzzling and disturbing about this new position by the U.S. on Jerusalem is the fact that it comes contrary to all previous Security Council resolutions on the Holy City, which rejected its annexation by Israel and called for rescinding all measures taken to alter its character. All adopted resolutions condemning the Israeli occupation and annexation of Jerusalem were heretofore supported by the U.S. But what adds insult to injury is what happened to the U.S. thinking as far as application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of Aug. 12, 1949, to East Jerusalem. The preamble paragraph in the resolution addressing that issue is merely an innocent expression about the application of the convention to any territory occupied by force, and it does not make any determination on sovereignty rights as such. Yet it was effectively rejected by Washington. Can it be that the Clinton administration does not concede that East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war? Once there is an admission that Arab Jerusalem was in fact occupied by Israeli forces in 1967, there can be no legal justification to refuse the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to it. Had the U.S. simply said that according to all relevant international resolutions Jerusalem should enjoy a special international regime and therefore no nation, including Israel, may have sovereignty rights over it, then the Arab side might have understood that stance. But to deny altogether that East Jerusalem is an occupied territory defies logic and comes as a stark contradiction to previous Security Council resolutions on the city. The reservation of the U.S. delegation on the reference to Jerusalem has only a political significance but no legal import. Resolution 904 was adopted in its totality without the U.S. casting a negative vote. This fact reduces the implications of the U.S. reservation and would not rob the resolution of its binding effect on all parties. In this sense the passage of the resolution was a big step forward even though it took more than three weeks to adopt it. Beyond that, if the resolution has indeed opened the door for the resumption of the peace process, especially after having made arrangements for greater security for the Palestinians, then it will have been worth it.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WASHINGTON'S DECISION not to recognise Arab Jerusalem as part of the occupied Arab lands of Palestine came under bitter criticism by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. This new stand on the part of the U.S. administration does not only undermine the Arab-Israeli peace process but would also pave the ground for Washington's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, said the daily. This is indeed a dangerous development in the U.S. attitude and one that reflects the desire of the U.S. administration to abandon the peace process altogether, added the paper. The new American position has prompted His Majesty King Hussein to contact the Arab leaders and to seek a united Arab stand vis-a-vis the status of Jerusalem. King Hussein has called his brothers, the Arab leaders of Morocco, Syria, Egypt and Tunisia, underlining the importance of collective Arab work to safeguard the Arab character of the holy city and defend Arab and Islamic rights in Palestinian lands, continued the daily. It said that King Hussein has warned of the danger inherent in this attitude on the peace process and he has sought Arab collective action and speedy reaction at the highest levels to fend off this grave danger.

COMMENTING ON THE U.N. Security Council's decision to extend the embargo on Iraq, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the decision reflected a failure on the part of the world community and the world organisation to uphold the U.N. charter and its provisions, which call for the protection of smaller nations' rights. Tareq Masarweh said that the decision is considered a violation of the basic human rights and the rights of the weak, the young and the old to survive and to receive basic requirements like food and medicine. Such decision represents an injustice and humiliation reminiscent of those to which the German people were subjected after the World War II, said the writer. He said that the council's decision against Iraq is pushing the Iraqis further to the wall and forcing them to take a step that could pave the ground for another war in the region. The writer, who quoted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as warning that the Iraqis would have to choose another path should the Council decide to extend the embargo, said that the world community should take notice of the warning and defuse tension and prevent further sufferings for the Arab people in this region.

## SUNDAY'S ECONOMIC PULSE

## Top Palestinian economist speaks out

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

YOUSEF SAYEGH is the chief Palestinian economist. He supervised and conducted most of the studies and economic plans drawn by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during the past five years. He was also the most senior Arab economist who engineered the documents of the Arab Development Decade, adopted by the 11th Arab Summit conference, held in Amman in 1980.

Thanks to Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, I was given, along with a selected group of Jordanian scholars and economists, the opportunity to meet with Dr. Sayegh, the senior Palestinian economic expert and listen to his evaluation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles, and its economic annexes.

Dr. Sayegh presented his well-thought of reservations about the nature of the secret negotiations which took place in Oslo-Norway and led to the accord. Among his reservations are: the complete absence of Palestinian institutions, lack of coordination with Jordan and other Arab countries surrounding Palestine, conducting serious negotiations behind the back of the official Palestinian delegation in Washington, D.C., and without technical experts and advisors which forced the Palestinian negotiators, facing complicated legal issues, to consult the Israeli legal advisor accompanying the Israeli delegation!

Dr. Sayegh was bitterly critical of the text of the accord and the annexes. Among the points raised by the veteran economist were: too much ambiguity when it comes to Palestinian demands, and too much details and clarity when it comes to Israeli demands. Many crucial principles were missing, there

was no mention of occupation, equal treatment, self-determination (at least in the economic sense), control of natural resources and confiscated areas. Besides, the agreement deferred certain crucial issues such as the fate of Jerusalem, borders, settlements and refugees. The process of autonomy was fragmented horizontally i.e., from a geographical point of view; and vertically, i.e., from the types of authorities stand point.

Dr. Sayegh pointed out that the word "agriculture" was never mentioned in the accord simply because of its connec-

"The Palestinian economy is to be divorced from the Jordanian and other Arab economies and used as an Israeli backyard to be attached to the Israeli economy vis-a-vis the Arab economies."

tion with land and water. The future autonomy authority was deprived from any power to exercise custom duty on imports because Israel intended to control trade and all points of entrance. The Palestinian economy is to be divorced from the Jordanian and other Arab economies and used as an Israeli backyard, to be attached to the Israeli economy vis-a-vis the Arab economies, including the Jordanian economy. Dr. Sayegh summed up the process as converting the status quo which is a subordination to the Israeli economy from being

compulsory under direct occupation to become voluntary and permanent after the agreement. Likewise, all security issues were left to the full discretion of the Israeli authorities, which have a flexible definition of the term security, so that Israel may control every activity on the pretext that it has a security dimension.

Dr. Sayegh pinpointed the Israeli strategic objective of preventing Palestine from cooperating economically with Jordan, an objective which meets the personal approval of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who aims at the establishment of a Palestinian Central Bank despite the absence of Central Bank traditions and experience. He wanted Palestinian currency to replace the strong and well-established Jordanian dinar which, in the opinion of Dr. Sayegh, will be an economic disaster.

Finally Dr. Sayegh stated unequivocally that Israel is after a free trade area, or a customs union, to be tailored to fulfil the best interest of one side, the Israeli side at the expense of the other side, the Palestinian side. He dismissed out of hand the idea that an Israeli economic normalisation with Jordan and other Arab countries will be ineffective just like the economic normalisation of Israel with Egypt.

Dr. Sayegh is a moderate Palestinian and an Arab national. He does not belong to the so called rejection front. He is not against negotiations and peaceful settlement, but he thinks that the terms and conditions could have been better, and that many Palestinian concessions were excessive and unjustified.

In the subsequent negotiations in Taba and Cairo, the PLO tried to get more than it accepted in Oslo, but ended up accepting less than the Oslo agreement allowed.

By Hisham Dajani

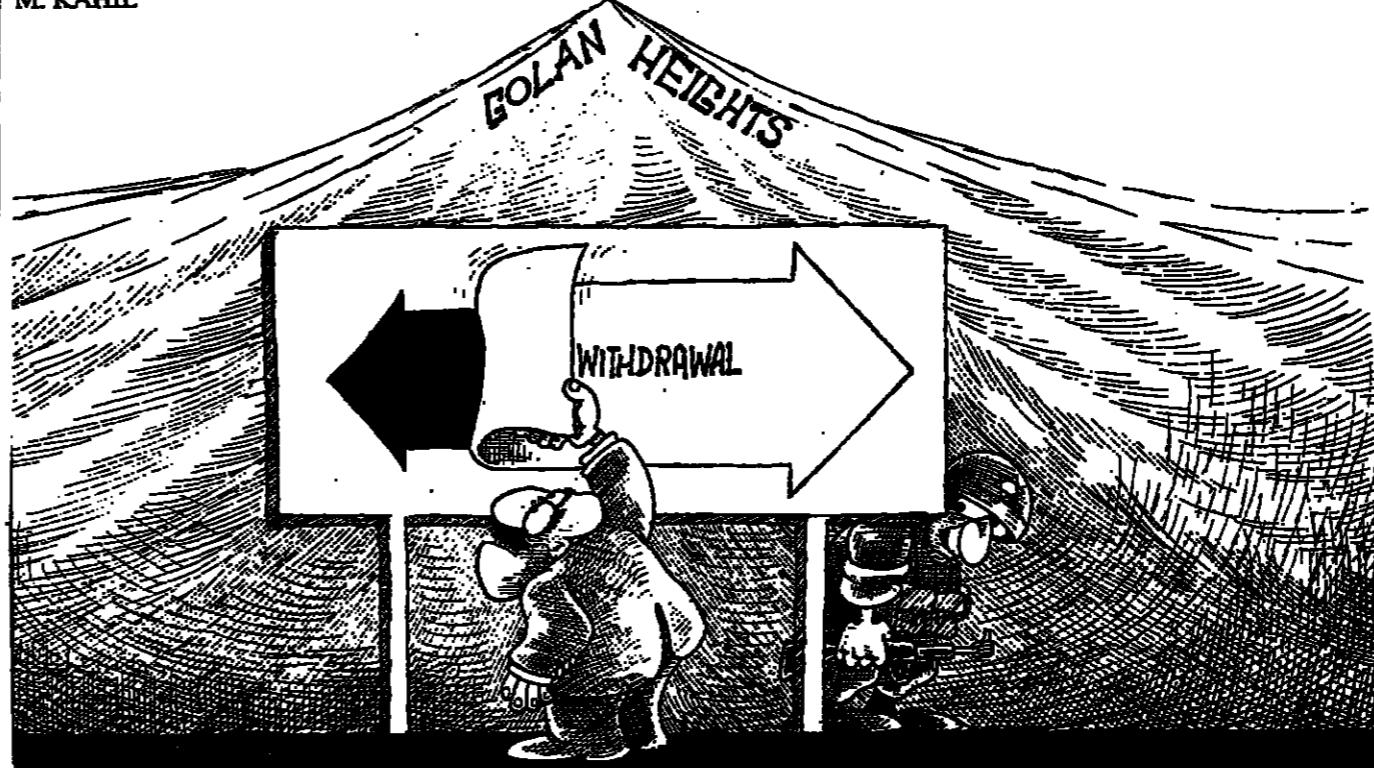
NOW THE hullabaloo of the Clinton-Assad summit in Geneva in January is over, one can turn back to the Golan file to highlight some items in the Syria-Israel dispute and to study more subtly the differences in attitude. Both before and after 1967, the territorial disputes between Syria and Israel had a dynamic of their own. These disputes and the strategies behind them hastened the June 1967 war and led to Israel's conquest of the Golan Heights. Apart from the strategic significance of the area, the Golan is also important for its regional water sources (MEI 464). This is particularly true of the area of Mt. Hermon, the site of the headwaters of the River Jordan. Also the Spring of Banias, a major source of the Jordan, is located on the lower slopes of the Golan.

There appear to be three points of view on the Golan within Israel. First, an ambivalent position with respect to the extent of potential withdrawal from the area; second, the necessity of retaining the area; and third, a total Israeli withdrawal in order to attain full peace with Syria.

The officially declared current position represents the first viewpoint. The pronouncements of Itamar Rabinovitch, the chief Israeli negotiator with the Syrian delegation at the peace talks, outlined the official Israeli position as follows: Syria must spell out the nature of the peace it would be willing to agree with Israel before Israel defines the extent of the withdrawal it would be willing to make from the Golan. This position amounts to a conditional peace according to the formula: a phase of peace for a part of land. Such a peace, according to Mr. Rabinovitch, must entail full diplomatic, cultural and economic relations.

Some of the advocates of this view argue that despite the geopolitics of the Golan, disengaging Syria

M. KAHIL



## The Golan: still a long way from resolution

from the Arab-Israeli conflict justifies finding a basis for territorial compromise. But some of those advocates oppose the dismantling of Israeli settlements. Only a small minority of Israelis regard the evacuation of all settlers as an inevitable price to pay for a peace treaty.

Needless to say, the second point of view — the need to retain the Golan — is held mainly by many in Likud and a number of Labour hardliners. They assume that Syria is not ready for peace and in any case it could not be trusted to honour it. Furthermore, they argue Israel can scarcely contemplate a territorial compromise on the Golan because of security considerations.

The third Israeli trend reflects the thinking of Labour Party doves in general and others to their left who maintain that Israel should think

seriously about the principle of an almost total withdrawal in return for full peace. Those who hold this view believe that it is time to realise that peace and security can exist without being conditional on keeping occupied land. They correctly argue that Syria would not enter into a peace agreement without the Golan. Security, they say, is not only secured by territory, but at least equally by real peace, strict demilitarisation and security guarantees.

Syria cannot match Israel economically or militarily. Israel is a nuclear power whose security and wellbeing are guaranteed by the U.S. while Syria has lost its superpower ally.

In strategic terms, Syria considers the Golan a critical natural defence against Israel. At the same time, Syria views itself as the champion of Arab interests. Its perception of its role in the region is a factor that should not be forgotten. Security and role perception constitute the framework that shapes the Syrian perspective on the Golan. The factors that shape this strategy are both military — tactical and geographic — and economic.

The first is connected with terrain, since the continued Israeli occupation of the Golan presents strategic dangers that are compounded by the absence of natural barriers.

The Israeli army is just 35km from Damascus. The Golan in Syrian hands would provide crucial defensive depth for the country's security.

The water situation in the region has greatly deteriorated and the region faces water shortages making this dimension of the conflict particularly important.

Whereas Israel insists that Syria has to spell out in advance the nature of peace, the Syrians, until the summit in Geneva, showed no hurry to do that. There is no guarantee, they argued, that even then Israel would commit itself to a total withdrawal from the Golan. Israeli failure to respond positively to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) concessions justified the Syrian attitude of not making unilateral concessions without receiving a reciprocal commitment to such concessions from Israel. But in Geneva there was some shift in the Syrian stance when President Hafez Assad surprised his audience by saying he was ready to sign

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# Features

## Africa's most successful women

By Thalia Griffiths  
Reuter

LOME — The women lolling among mounds of neatly folded cloth on the first floor of Lome's grand marche are big players in Togo's economy.

Nicknamed the nanas benz, they gossip, eat and feed their babies among the shelves as dealers from Nigeria, Benin, Ghana and further afield circle the dimly lit stalls dismissing the quoted price with a contemptuous click of the tongue.

Elegantly clad and laden with gold jewellery, they get their name from the Mercedes cars which the more successful among them park discreetly behind the market. The more lowly cloth-sellers outside the main market are known as nanettes.

The trade in lengths of African printed cloth, known in French as pagnes, is the main employer of women in Togo. All the more important in a country where the economy is at a virtual standstill and unemployment is rife.

"It's a women's trade. It gives us independence. With polygamy, that's important. A woman can have her own home with her family and the man comes by occasionally," said Evelyn Trenou Dede, who inherited her business from her mother.

Togo has the lowest import duties in West Africa, which in the past made it ideal for import and re-export businesses.

But political turmoil in the past four years, particularly an eight-month general strike that ended in August, has taken its toll.

Neighbouring Benin, whose customs duties are almost as low and whose political transition was much smoother, has taken over much of Togo's trade.

Now the whole business is threatened still further by a massive 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc on Jan. 12, which has doubled the price of the imported cloth.

"It's an absolute disaster," said Ms. Dede, whose shop on the edge of the market was piled with cloth but empty of customers.

The cost of a 12-yard (11 metre) length of brightly coloured, intricately printed cloth has jumped from 23,000 CFA (39) to about 45,000 (76) and will rise to 47,000 (80) when the new exchange rate is used to calculate customs tariffs.

By Martin Woollacott

THE HEBRON massacre has brought the complex structure of deception represented by the Oslo agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians crashing to the ground. The question now is whether the two will wisely decide on an attempt to re-erect the scenery of this discredited play without change, or whether the Israelis, in particular, will have the courage to face up to the real implications of a negotiation for peace.

Before he left for talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the United States, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, handed over to Shas, the religious party he wants to include in his coalition, a letter pledging not to divide Jerusalem, not to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, and not to dismantle the settlements.

There could hardly be a clearer example of the Alice in Wonderland world in which the Israeli government wishes to dwell. Mr. Rabin is restating known positions; Shas is requiring him to do so because it suspects him of secretly planning to compromise some of them; meanwhile the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is not sure whether or not he actually will do so, and, in any case, secret intent is no longer enough for them. No wonder that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has been so reluctantly come to terms over the resumption of talks.

It is not only that the Israelis have so far offered — early discussion of international monitors plus the ban on extremist organisations — is not enough. The Hebron massacre has put a spotlight on the evasions and hypocrisies of both sides.

This is a country where strange things have been happening. A country where large numbers of new Jewish immigrants are not Jewish at all. A country where Arab votes may very soon be necessary if there is ever to be a centre-left government again. A country which lives in a world where the fourth largest Israel — Israeli, not Jewish — city is Los Angeles.

A country desperately attached to hard, old things like territory and sovereignty, and war-making capacity but also desperate to plug into the global economy, to master the new forms of power. Tom between a simpler past and a more ambiguous present and future, the tendency has been to locate the anxieties over these identity shifts in the peace process itself.

Dutch designers visit the region two to three times a year to see which fabrics are selling well. Designs vary from the traditional to the bizarre — one on sale in Lome called "six bougies" is a blue-on-blue print of spark-plugs.

Pagnes are also printed for special occasions. In the Ivory Coast, four designs were produced for the funeral of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on Feb. 7.

Lome's nanas have a reputation as hugely rich and powerful. "Whenever the nanas benz have kicked up a fuss, the government has given in to them," Mr. Nutall said.

## Massacre reveals 'deception' of Oslo accord



An Israeli policeman holds his gun against Palestinians in East Jerusalem days after the Hebron massacre (AFP photo)

rent views on the feasibility of peace with the Arabs. Israelis are muddled and divided over the purpose of that country and its proper relationship with the world.

It has perhaps always been so, but these problems are now particularly dangerous because they threaten to paralyse decision-making in the Israeli state.

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Arabs were on the rampage. A film clip showing an Israeli soldier retreating before a 10-year-old boy attracts his especial fury. Binyamin Begin, Menachem's son, says that a return to the 1967 borders would be a sign that Israel had lost, that the other side was victorious "through the stone, through the knife, through the Molotov cocktail."

But it is not only on the right that the idea of losing the upper hand is influential.

In every statement of Yitzhak Rabin, in many of his actual decisions, and in his very body language, one senses the same determination to keep on top. In his case he does not see full-scale continuation of the territories as the means of maintaining that advantage, but imagines, perhaps, that some more complicated mixture of policies will enable Israel to keep the initiative. The sense that Israel is about winning,

defeat. Only in Israel would you be referred to the first century when discussing 20th century politics — to the divisions among the Jews that helped the Romans destroy the Jewish state.

Intensely sectarian although Israel is, and made more so politically by its system of proportional representation, there is a horror of the kind of polarisation that might lead to violence by Jews against Jews, or to grave political crisis. Because confrontation with the settlers might lead in that direction, Mr. Rabin remains intensely reluctant to evacuate even the most dangerously situated of the settlements.

Assassination attempts, bombs, ambushes dance in people's minds. While violence of that kind could conceivably happen, the anxieties seem to arise more from widespread worries about the loss of cohesion in Israeli society.

Preoccupations of this kind do not make for clear thinking. In their heart of hearts a majority of Israelis may well believe that there is not likely to be a genuine peace

whether or not there is a withdrawal from the territories. The question then remains how security is best to be assured, by carrying on with the morally and financially costly business of repressing the Arabs of Gaza and the West Bank or by getting out. Objective opinion points to the latter, which brings with it the chance for peace, and, if not, then better security maintained through Israel's large advantages in conventional military force.

Two weeks after the Hebron massacre a small group of young Israelis made their way to the curfewed town, taking backways and dodging Israeli soldiers to get in. Members of a tiny leftwing organisation called the Committee for Solidarity with Hebron, formed five months before the killings, they took with them money for medicine and food. As on previous trips they were courteously received and their aid accepted with thanks, but on this occasion some of Hebron's Hamas leaders asked them to explain their political position. One of the group gave a speech in Arabic outlining their belief in a wholly secular state for all. The Hamas leaders then in turn outlined their views on an Islamic state, while emphasising that they bore no hostility to Jews as Jews. The two sides parted with expressions of goodwill.

That is an example of the kind of connection still being made in spite of the horror. To suggest that the Goldstein killing, after all the bloodshed on both sides, in itself cuts off possibilities for peace must be wrong. This will remain true even if there is a major retaliation by groups on the Palestinian side.

The importance of the massacre for the Israelis ought to be that it offers a chance for an escape from their own stereotypes and from the misleading language in which they conduct the internal argument about peace. It is understandable that Israelis are nostalgic for the old Israel of sacrifice and solidarity, and that they are intensely concerned with the issues of Jewish defeat and Jewish division. It is clear that the result on the political level is a government that sees itself surrounded by taboos and no-go areas which it does not wish to enter. But unless these questions of identity are coolly separated from the arguments about peace, they will continue to hamper its pursuit and could destroy it altogether.

The Guardian.

## Israel, PLO to discuss security

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres said Israel was proposing that a special Palestinian police force be deployed in Hebron. The force would be under Israeli army command, but would have greater authority than Palestinian policemen who served alongside Israeli police in the occupied territories in the past, Mr. Peres said.

"Even if we pour all possible military forces into Hebron, there is no complete security. We have to think about the life of every single man and woman, Jews and Arabs."

He refused comment on Israeli media reports that the 450 Jewish settlers living in six enclaves in Hebron would be moved into one or two sites in the town to reduce friction with the Palestinians.

"This police force will have a special character ... that will take into account the special sensitivities in Hebron," Mr. Peres told Israel radio.

"Every reasonable suggestion to enhance security in the territories will be accepted by us," Mr. Peres added.

He also hinted that Israel might decide unilaterally, though at a later time, to dismantle some settlements. Such a decision would be made "based on Israeli logic and security needs," not under the pressure of negotiations with the PLO, he said.

"We are asking ourselves out loud how to organise

ourselves, not in order to appease anyone, but to ensure the security of all residents," Mr. Peres said.

"Even if we pour all possible military forces into Hebron, there is no complete security. We have to think about the life of every single man and woman, Jews and Arabs."

The abstention came Friday night when the Security Council voted, article by article, on the resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

The Palestinians expressed concern over the U.S. abstention. "We hope that this abstention is only technical and procedural and not an indication of a change in U.S. policy," Mr. Hussein said in a statement.

Once the Israel-PLO talks resume, there could be quick results, he said. "There isn't too much work maybe two or three weeks for the conclusion of the agreement and then a very short time, maybe another two or three weeks, for implementation," he said.

Mr. Peres also had guarded praise for Washington's decision to abstain during the Security Council vote on a section of a resolution referring to parts of Jerusalem as occupied territory.

"There is a change in the

American position, even a little bit to the better," Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio. "Until now, the United States voted twice to include Jerusalem among the occupied territories."

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# Economy

## BAE unit eager to sell planes to Mideast airlines

MANAMA (R) — Britain's Avro International Aerospace is showing off its RJ70 aircraft to potential Middle Eastern customers, hoping to fill a regional need for light aircraft. "We see the Middle East entering a new phase of developing regional routes, not just as feeders but to meet the high demand, particularly from businessmen, for frequent, short routes within the region," says Africa and Middle East Vice President John Schieffelin.

Avro, set up by British Aerospace PLC (BAE) in 1983, demonstrated its RJ70 light aircraft on Saturday in the Gulf Arab state of Bahrain, home base for the regional carrier Gulf Air.

Mr. Schieffelin said there was sales potential for about 30 planes in the Middle East. Each RJ70 costs around \$25 million.

"The Gulf is experiencing tremendous growth and we see a need for required services to supplement their fleets," he added.

Avro's public relations manager Terry Taylor said company officials were holding talks with airline officials in Gulf states including Saudi Arabia's flag carrier Saudia.

He refused to give any further details but industry sources earlier said that Saudi originally had plans to spend between \$200 and \$300 million on light aircraft for short-haul and domestic flights as part of a major order worth some \$6.2 billion.

Officials from U.S. firms McDonnell Douglas Corp and Boeing Co. are due in Saudi Arabia later this month to discuss prices, financing and delivery schedules after Rivadhi said it would buy between 50 and 60 American jets worth \$6 billion.

### Iran defers \$5.6b in debt arrears to West

TEHRAN (R) — Iran, its economy badly hit by low oil prices, said it had agreed with four Western countries to defer repayments on \$5.6 billion in debt arrears.

Iranian television said late Friday that Iran signed agreements with Swiss and Austrian officials allowing it to repay a total of \$1 billion in debts owed to companies in the two countries by receiving medium-term credits.

"The \$1 billion credit will cover overdue debts and those due up to March 1995," a television news report said.

Iran has also signed similar agreements with Germany and a group of Japanese companies in the last month. Iran's official IRNA news agency said the Japanese credit was worth \$2 billion.

"Taking into account the earlier contracts with Japan and Germany, a total of \$5.6 billion in credits to Iran has been negotiated and agreed upon," the television report said.

## African business leaders call for trade summit

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — African business leaders called Saturday for a joint government-business summit next year to remove all restrictions to trade within the continent.

"All Africa needs is to create an enabling environment for trade," African Development Bank President Babacar Ndiaye told the annual meeting of the African Business Round Table (ABR) in northern Tanzania.

"We shall do this if the government leaders and business people sit together and find common ground to enhance business and examine their priorities," he added on

the last day of the conference. He called on Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, who with Mozambican President Joaquin Chissano attended the conference, to put the proposal to an Organisation of African Unity summit in Tunis in June.

He told reporters intra-African trade amounted to only two per cent of the global economy and Africans needed to remove finance and trade restrictions and implement radical reforms.

Mr. Chiluba urged Africans late Friday to embrace regional integration swiftly to offset Western economic domination.

He said with the conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Africa would suffer a net loss of \$2.6 billion in trade by the year 2006 while Europe, America and Asia would gain significantly.

Business leaders said Africans consumed more than their own indigenous industries could produce and also faced a collapse of prices of primary commodities, growing external debt of about \$270 billion, and declining investment and financial assistance.

They said the solution lay in reforms ending government involvement in often loss-making

state companies, the removal of visa restrictions, restructured tariffs and fewer currency controls.

Conference experts said the business leaders largely skirted the question of conflicts in Africa at their Arusha forum.

Mr. Chiluba said Saturday they could not ignore the fact that Africa suffered from instability ranging from Liberia in the west to Somalia in the east and Sudan in the north to Angola in the south.

He urged African leaders to move fast to help make peace and said African business must be a partner in such an endeavour.

Mr. Ndiaye called on Afri-

cans to implement policies to rescue Africa from its depressed position in the global economy and help curb chronic poverty and a deterioration of facilities.

Experts said 35 African countries had implemented radical economic reforms at the behest of international donors and in those states where changes were implemented fully, impressive rates of growth in markets and investment had been reached.

About 300 business leaders from Cape Town to Cairo as well as senior government delegations attended the ABR meeting.

## Airlines speed partnerships across Atlantic

LONDON (AP) — The era of trans-Atlantic airline alliances took two big steps forward in less than 24 hours.

A new aviation agreement between the United States and Germany will give United Airlines and Lufthansa German Airlines the largest combined route system in the world, while British Airways retained its right to keep putting passengers onto USAIR domestic

flights in America through a "code-sharing" arrangement.

The big losers were American Airlines and Delta Air Lines, which fought both deals.

"It's another example of the U.S. government caving into foreign pressure," said American's London-based spokeswoman, Lizzann Peppard.

Among U.S. carriers, American and Delta offer the most

flights across the Atlantic — but they can expect to lose passengers to the competition as rivals marry up and combine services.

It remains unclear how all this jockeying in the skies will affect ordinary travelers. Better flight connections could be one benefit. But people hoping for cheaper fares probably shouldn't hold their breath.

The United and Lufthansa

deal got the go-ahead as Germany and the United States came to terms Friday on a new aviation treaty.

The British Airways-USAIR partnership was extended Thursday evening by U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena. Mr. Pena had previously said he wanted a new aviation treaty with Britain in place before granting such an extension, but he angered American and Delta by backing off from this demand.

The main feature of the partnerships, as in an earlier deal between Northwest Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, is the practice of code-sharing. The airline partners list connecting flights under one code number in computer reservations systems, which enables them to get more bookings.

This is because travelers believe they are going on one airline, viewed by most people

as the best way to fly because connections should be smoother and their luggage is less likely to be lost.

For example, United's deal with Lufthansa will allow those carriers to promote direct flights from dozens of U.S. cities to Warsaw, a service that neither could offer by itself. United will pick up people somewhere in its vast U.S. route network and Lufthansa will drop them off in Poland after they have changed planes in Frankfurt.

"We see code-sharing as being a marketing innovation that is going to make carriers more effective and provide consumers with broader-ranging route networks," said Cyril Murphy, United's vice president for international and governmental affairs, in a telephone interview Friday from Washington.

But will consumers really benefit?

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 20, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The Sun enters Aries today as the Cancer (Moonchild) Moon trines Mercury and Saturn making communications easy and a positive connection of mind and emotion with good common sense mentality; conversation is easy.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Make certain you handle any responsibilities you have in a most precise manner. Engage in favorite hobby with congeniality.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Use diplomacy instead of forcefulness with mate and you get along better. Make long-range plans to have more abundance for the future.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Try to please family members and come to a better understanding with them. Take no risks where your reputation is concerned.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have greater income in the days ahead. Analyse your aims and gain the support you need from others for being prosperous.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on how you can be more productive in the future. An intuitive prompting could be erroneous now so don't follow it at this time.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Try to enlist the help of loyal friends for a new project.

you have in mind. Make practical plans for the days ahead in the ways to be successful.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Make some needed changes at home so that you have more comfort there. Allow time for recreational activities you enjoy and bring you happiness.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A good day to engage in activities that most appeal to you. Adopt a philosophy that can be good for you in the future so that you can be successful.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Try to have more harmonious relations with family members. Make plans that can bring advancement in your career and respect by others.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Outline projects you want to put in operation in the future. A good time to visit good friends and relatives who you have not seen recently.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Use good sense in handling matters of communication and get excellent results. Make this a worthwhile day in any project you are involved in.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Enjoy small pleasures you like in the company of congenials. Show more devotion to mate and express happiness together during anytime possible.

## Dollar expected to strengthen against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

### Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar has been weakened in recent weeks by a sharp rise in European and Japanese bond yields relative to the U.S. and by ongoing U.S.-Japan trade frictions. We continue to expect the dollar to strengthen against European currencies in coming quarters as interest rates decline in Europe. But we have moderated our 12-month target for the DM/USD rate from 1.85 to 1.80 in view of better-than-expected wage moderation in Germany that will help restore German competitiveness. Prospects for large current account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and perhaps intensify over the coming year. We maintain our six-month target of JPY/USD 100 and our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

Technical view: After a solid week during the first week in March, the U.S. dollar index spent last week on the defensive. The greenback lost ground against four of the six currencies we most regularly monitor, most notably the Deutsche mark and the Swiss franc. As a result, the index fell 1.3% for the week. This decline was a reflection of the weak medium term trend, since short term momentum is viewed as near oversold.

We are of the view that the current decline is serving to correct the September-January rally. This suggests that the weakness will be fairly well contained. However, medium term momentum remain weak and, if last week's low of 93.62 is broken, further weakness to the 92.80 area would not be surprising. Although important resistance still exists at 97.50-98.00, there is now interim resistance at 94.90-95.80.

### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The yen has weakened marginally in recent weeks to the JPY/USD 105.8 level in response to evidence of robust U.S. growth and signs that Japan is moving to reduce trade frictions. Although U.S. officials have avoided taking the yen up, many market participants have concluded that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus. Despite Japan's agreement to allow greater U.S. access to its cellular phone market, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor testified to Congress that trade tensions are likely to persist for some time.

Interest rate developments also appear to be lending support to the yen. 10-year government bond yields have risen to 1.1% and futures markets are now discounting a tightening of Japanese monetary policy over the next year. Data pointing to a strong rebound in Japanese industrial production in

February and March suggest that further monetary easing is likely to be delayed for some time.

We expect renewed economic weakness to lead to a 0.5% rate cut in late April or May. Persistent current account surpluses should keep upward pressure on the yen. Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect the current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen rallied 0.4% against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment indicators are still no worse than neutral. Short term momentum remains downwardly biased, but is not yet oversold. At the same time, medium term oscillators remain constructive and have the potential to remain so well into April.

As a result, we are inclined to view any further weakness as temporary and think that a challenge of the recent highs is still likely. In that regard, a rally much through 101 JPY/USD would allow for at least 98. Benchmark support remains 113-114, but intervening support at 105-106 and 109-110 will likely be more important reference points in coming weeks.

### Deutschmark

Fundamental view: Despite further modest easing by the Bundesbank, the dollar remains under pressure against the Deutsche mark at the DM/USD 1.69 level. The dollar's lackluster performance against the DM may reflect the attraction of higher bond yields in Germany and perceptions that Bundesbank easing will remain extremely cautious. Although Germany's GDP declined at a 2.8% annual rate in the fourth quarter, M-3 money growth remains well above the Bundesbank's target range of 6%. The figure was distorted by special factors, but underlying money growth is still running around 7%. This could contribute to further caution about easing. With U.S. growth of 7.5% in the fourth quarter, another round of monetary tightening is expected in coming weeks in the U.S.

We do not expect another cut in Germany's discount rate until May or June, but despite the recent money growth shock, the Bundesbank is still likely to start trimming its repo rate soon. The outlook for inflation to moderate further looks especially, especially given recent wage agreements which will keep wage growth well under 2%.

We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to close to 4.0% by early 1995 compared with 5.60% currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.80, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.75 level in 3 months.

Technical view: The Deutsche mark gained 2.1% versus the

U.S. dollar during the week ended March 11, making it the strongest currency of the six we most regularly discuss. Medium term sentiment is deteriorating and is neutral. Short term momentum has been constructive, but did not confirm last week's strength, generating a negative divergence. However, medium term oscillators remain quite constructive and may well remain so until at least late April.

All of this suggests that, even though the dominant long term trend remains down, the immediate pressures in coming weeks should still be to the upside — possible short term weakness notwithstanding. Further strength through last week's high of 1.679 DM/USD would allow for 1.65-1.66. The former resistance at 1.694-1.704 is now support. The mark/yen cross spent most of last week above 62. While short term momentum is pointing up, medium term oscillators remain down. The 62.50-63.00 range is both chart and momentum resistance, so a rally through that benchmark would be significant. A break below 59 would at least nominally set the stage for 55.

### Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound fell sharply against the Deutsche mark this week to DM/GBP 2.52, weighed down by speculation about a near-term interest rate cut to mitigate the impact of April 1 tax hikes. The pound is now 10 pence below its recent early-January peak versus the DM. Recent data indicate weakness in retail sales and consumer sentiment, but surprising strength in the labour market should help to maintain consumer confidence.

We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.70 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 160 basis points compared to little or no fall in sterling rates. The pound continues to trade at US\$/GBP 1.49. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.\$/GBP 1.46 in 12 months as short-term dollar interest rates modestly.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.7% versus the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment remains near oversold, but short term momentum is still topsy. Medium term oscillators have lacked definition in recent weeks, but now appear to be picking up steam. Nonetheless, our parameters remain unchanged.

A decisive breakdown from the trading range (\$1.46 U.S.\$/GBP) would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42. The current area of \$1.50-\$1.51 is viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate dropped to a new 1994 low last week, supported by medium term momentum oscillators. Support is at 2.50-2.51. Resistance has been lowered to 2.56-2.57.

Resistance has been



## Inter-Korean talks collapse

**SEOUL (R)** — North Korea, warning that confrontation could lead to war, walked out of a meeting with South Korea Saturday aimed at ending the dispute over the North's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

The walkout makes cancellation of U.S.-North Korean talks scheduled for Monday almost certain, and efforts to impose international sanctions on the Stalinist regime more likely.

"North Korea said that Seoul was not very far from here and that it could be in flames," South Korea's chief delegate Song Young-Dae told reporters after the meeting at the border hamlet of Panmunjom.

"Confrontations can spread to war. We are prepared to answer back with talks for talks or with war for war," Mr. Song quoted the North Koreans as saying.

Mr. Song said it was the first time the North had talked of war during the border meetings.

The officials did not set a date for their next meeting.

"By the walkout, North Korea ignored our and international efforts for dialogue... There is no excuse for their actions," South Korean Unification Minister Lee Yung-Dug said in a statement.

"Unlike our efforts for the exchange of special envoys, North Korea kept delaying

talks and in the end threatened a war and unilaterally refused the talks," he said.

Mr. Lee said the South still wanted to solve the nuclear issue peacefully. "We urge North Korea to come forward in a positive way to quickly resolve the issue."

The two sides had met to resume talks on a proposed exchange of envoys to discuss the North's suspected nuclear arms programme. The North Koreans walked out after 55 minutes.

The United States had made the exchange of envoys one of its conditions for resuming talks with the North.

Northern officials at the talks, according to a Southern account, demanded that the South stop trying to halt the talks with its "negative" attitude. They accused it of trying to hinder the third round of talks between Pyongyang and Washington scheduled for Monday in Geneva.

The North also demanded that the two Koreas issue a "joint statement expressing the will to realise the envoy exchange" before an agreement was signed.

South Korea, for its part, demanded that the North change its attitude and start discussing details of the exchange of envoys instead of introducing unrelated issues.

At four previous rounds of border talks, North Korea said

the South must abandon plans to deploy U.S. Patriot missiles and called for its president, Kim Young-Sam, to retract his statement accusing the North of developing atomic weapons.

U.S. intelligence chiefs fear Pyongyang could already have a crude nuclear bomb. North Korea says its nuclear programme is peaceful.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) returned from a two-week tour of nuclear sites in North Korea Tuesday but said they could not verify compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which Pyongyang has signed.

North Korea said Friday the inspectors' complaints were "utterly unjustifiable" and threatened to respond to any further pressure with "a resolute measure."

President Bill Clinton said Friday he may resume "Team Spirit" military exercises with South Korea and send the Patriot anti-missile missiles there unless the North satisfies the U.N. inspection team.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, asked at a news conference about resuming the exercises, said he would wait for the outcome of the border talks before any final decision.

He told a U.S. television programme it was up to North Korea to defuse the situation.

"There is an impasse tonight but the choice is North

Korea's," Mr. Christopher said.

"They can comply with the inspections."

"They can enter into talks with South Korea and really join the family of nations. In which case there's a real possibility we'd be glad to have a third round of talks and welcome them into a more normal relationship."

"...if they want to go the other way, clearly the International Atomic Energy Agency will refer the matter back to the United Nations and the question will have to be: What kind of sanctions?" he said.

There was no immediate reaction from Washington Saturday to the breakdown of the border talks.

China has restated its objection to any United Nations sanctions against North Korea aimed at forcing it to open its nuclear plants for international inspection.

"It's an international rule now to solve all issues through dialogue," Zhang Tingyan, ambassador to South Korea, said in an interview carried Saturday by the domestic Yonhap News Agency.

"Why should the North Korean nuclear problem be an exception? China cannot agree to sanctions or any other stringent measures."

"Such measures are not only ineffective, they would only complicate matters, aggravate the situation," Mr. Zhang said.

## ANC wants purge of S. African police

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — The ANC Saturday demanded a purge of all policemen found involved in running guns to its Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party rival and other dirty tricks to undermine South Africa's transition to democracy.

Appeals Court Judge Richard Goldstone said he had evidence that the deputy police commissioner, General Basie Smit, was among those involved.

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"Why should the North Korean nuclear problem be an exception? China cannot agree to sanctions or any other stringent measures."

"Such measures are not only ineffective, they would only complicate matters, aggravate the situation," Mr. Zhang said.



Supreme Court Judge Richard Goldstone (right) and South African President F.W. De Klerk hold a joint press conference in Pretoria. Three police generals and a number of high-ranking policemen are strongly implicated in gun-running and violence aimed at torpedoing South Africa's first all-race election next month, a commission into political violence said (AP photo)

The judge told a news conference Friday that fast action was needed to avoid further destabilisation before the republic's first all-race election on April 26 to 28. The ANC is expected to win comfortably.

Most of the actions listed by Judge Goldstone, including the supply of weapons and the fuelling of violence on trains and in migrant worker hostels, were directed at helping Inkatha which has said it is boycotting the election.

President F.W. De Klerk said Gen. Smit and Gen. Englebrecht initiated the gun project with the support of Inkatha leaders to orchestrate violence. This also involved weapons training for Inkatha members.

People involved included a Colonel Eugene De Kock, officers from Durban and volatile townships east of Johannesburg, and the then-commissioner of police in Inkatha's Kwazulu homeland, General Jac Buchner.

Inkatha paid Col. De Kock for the arms, the report said.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe urged Zulu leaders Saturday from declaring a sovereign state in South Africa, saying the move would lead to disaster.

Addressing an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting political developments in South Africa, Mr. Mugabe said Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his Inkatha Freedom Party must "pluck their courage and resolve" to take part in the country's first all-race elections next month.

## A tulip blooms in the White House

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Ah, the little extras that come with life in the White House. The embassy of the Netherlands announced Friday that it would name a new tulip variety after first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mrs. Clinton will "christen the new Hillary Clinton's tulip at a special ceremony at the Netherlands residence" Tuesday, the embassy said in a statement. "It sounds like a lot of fun and an honour," said Neel Latimore, a spokesman for the first lady. The ceremony is part of festivities marking the 400th anniversary of the first flowering tulips in the Netherlands. More than 11,000 tulips will be on display at the residence.

## U.S. bars Cuban dancers from Hollywood event

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The United States has rejected entry visa requests for two Cuban dancers invited to perform at the motion picture Academy Awards ceremony Monday night in Los Angeles. State Department officials said Friday. They said the government generally does not allow professional entertainers from Cuba to perform in the United States because of the U.S. embargo. Even if the dancers performed free of charge, their appearance would contribute to their "reputation, marketability and future earnings," all grounds for rejection of visa requests, the officials said.

Zac De Beer, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party said: "Evidence has been mounting for many years that the National Party ran a corrupt administration. I think it is time for all voters to understand that De Klerk's party is grubby, disreputable organisation."

Political analyst said De Klerk and his colleagues had been naive in publicly saying they trusted the generals.

Judge Goldstone was appointed by the government to investigate the causes of political violence which killed about 15,000 people in four years of apartheid reform. ANC and Inkatha rivalry has been blamed for most of the deaths.

The Goldstone report said an experienced officer, identified only as "Q", made the allegations to investigators.

## Pope warns of voodoo risk in Haiti

**VATICAN CITY (R)** — Pope John Paul has called on the Haiti's bishops to reject voodoo and to avoid mixing the cult with Catholicism. About 80 per cent of Haitians are Roman Catholic but most also believe in voodoo, a creed based on communication with spirits while believers are in a trance. "It would be dangerous if it (voodoo) favoured the worst kind of nationalism," the Pope said in a speech to bishops from Haiti. The Western hemisphere's poorest nation.

Cantonal elections are often dominated by parish pump issues, but the vote will help gauge the impact of record unemployment and street protests on a centre-right coalition which swept to power in a landslide victory a year ago.

Some 18.5 million voters are called to decide who controls France's 95 departments, the administrative districts in charge of public services outside urban areas. The two-round vote includes a second ballot the following Sunday.

Gaulist former Minister Alain Peyrefitte, in a front page column for the daily Le Figaro, urged readers to take the trouble to vote, saying that a poor performance for the ruling coalition parties would affect Mr. Balladur's standing.

The usual abstention rate for such elections is around 40 per cent.

"What is certain is that the results, if they are bad, will be used against the prime minister and his government—they will encourage rebellion in the coalition ranks and the virulence of those in opposition," he wrote.

He said the opposition Socialist Party, which crashed to a mere 18 per cent in the March 1993 general election, would exploit any improvement to claim it had "wiped out last year's disaster."

Nationwide and sometimes violent protests by Air France workers, fishermen and students among others have tested Mr. Balladur's coalition of the Gaulist Rally For the Republic (PR) and the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF).

The short campaign for the local polls has been dominated by controversy over Mr. Balladur's policy on youth unemployment.

Trade unions and students have staged four marches through Paris and dozens of provincial demonstrations to demand he scrap a new law allowing young people to be paid less than the national minimum wage on so-called "training contracts".

In a move reminiscent of the 1992 U.S. Olympic volleyball players, who shaved their heads in a show of solidarity with a bald teammate. "The last thing he would want is to be made fun of, so feel better and not left out," said 10-year-old Kyle Hanslik.

## Hosokawa arrives in China

### Serbs renew demands for joining Bosnia deal

**SARAJEVO (R)** — Bosnian Serb leaders are renewing conditions for joining efforts for an overall settlement of the Bosnian conflict embracing all three sides in a Croat-Muslim peace deal.

The talk was hardly dry on a Croat-Muslim agreement signed in Washington Friday when Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said international trade sanctions against rump-Yugoslavia must be lifted for the Serbs to make peace in Bosnia.

"We... are ready to sign a peace agreement at any time but we expect that all three sides would be treated equally, which includes the issue of the lifting of the sanctions," the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug quoted Mr. Karadzic as saying.

A senior Karadzic aide, Momcilo Krajisnik, echoed Serb calls for "equal treatment" Saturday, saying a recent Serb offer to open the airport of the besieged Muslim enclave of Tuzla was conditional on the presence of Serb officials, along with Russian observers, there.

Tuzla Airport must have the same treatment as Sarajevo Airport, which is on the Serb side yet is controlled by Muslim officers," he said.

Mr. Karadzic announced after talks in Moscow earlier this month that Serb forces would allow Tuzla Airport — closed since the beginning of the Bosnian war — to open provided

### Berlusconi hits back at mafia accusations

**ROME (R)** — Media millionaire Silvio Berlusconi hit back Saturday at suggestions that the right-wing alliance he leads into this month's Italian election is backed by the mafia.

Interior Minister Nicola Mancino had warned Friday the mafia would be a force in the March 27/28 election and added: "They say that in Sicily their tendency will be to support (Berlusconi's) Forza Italia."

More accusations came from Mr. Berlusconi's leading rival Achille Occhetto, who said Forza Italia (Go Italy) was also receiving mafia help in the southern Calabria region.

Forza Italia was leading Mr. Occhetto's leftist alliance by a narrow margin when opinion polls ended last week. But political analysts say the outcome of the election is too close to call.

Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman Antonio Tajani challenged the interior minister to put up or shut up.

"If Mancino has evidence to back his charges, then he should come out with it," he said.

### Iranian plane may have been shot down — Karabakh

**MOSCOW (R)** — Officials in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh Saturday said an Iranian aircraft which crashed in the region, killing all 32 people on board, could have been shot down, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

"Local experts do not exclude the possibility that the Iranian plane was shot down by the Azerbaijani side," TASS said.

Azerbaijan, involved in a six-year conflict with Armenia over Karabakh, has already strongly hinted Armenian forces shot down the C-130 Hercules transport plane late Thursday.

A team of Iranian experts Saturday flew to Stepanakert, capital of the enclave, and started investigating the crash.

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency Friday quoted military experts as saying the plane, which lost height after the cockpit became depressurised, "could well have been shot down by a mobile anti-aircraft missile system."

Armenian officials said Friday the Hercules, taking relatives of Iranian embassy staff home from Moscow for New Year celebrations, was about 100 kilometres off course.

Investigators said Friday technical problems probably were to blame for a crash.

The American-made C-130 was flying from Moscow to the Iranian capital, Tehran, with 19 passengers and 13 crew members when it crashed in snowy mountains late Thursday, officials said.

An Armenian government official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the pilot contacted the airport in Armenia's capital, Yerevan, and said he was having technical problems.

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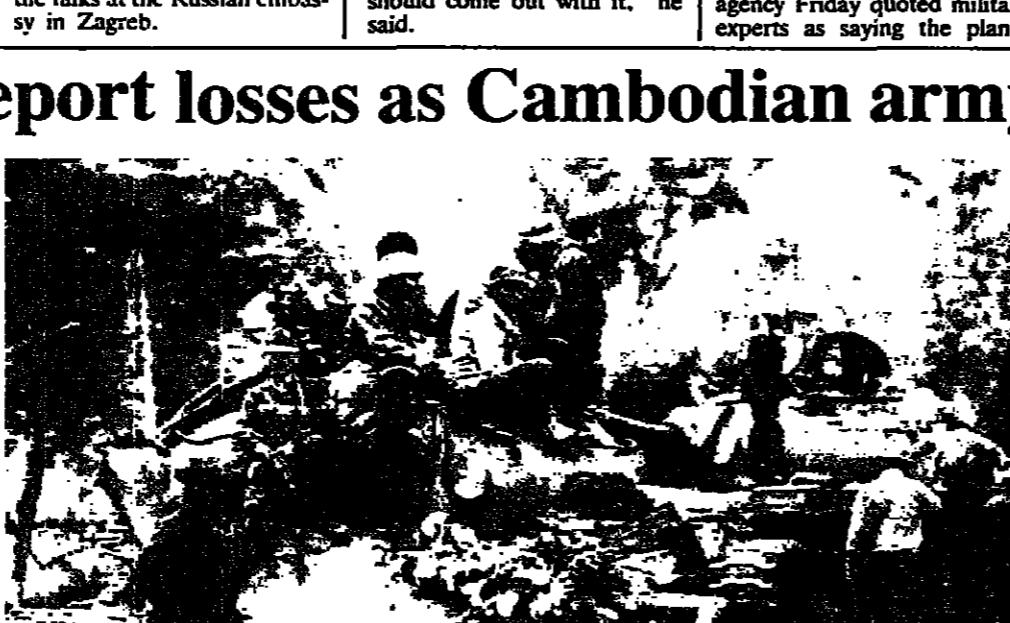
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Trade unions and students have staged four marches through Paris and dozens of provincial demonstrations to demand he scrap a new law allowing young people to be paid less than the national minimum wage on so-called "training contracts".

### Troops report losses as Cambodian army clams up



Cambodian government tanks line up on Route 10, some 10 km from Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin, waiting for orders for the final assault.

Ministry officials had tried to stress that the army's operations were not offensive.

"I think that's because they are worried about the king's displeasure and there could be some dissension about how to proceed. It also gives them a way out if things don't work out as intended," he said.

Soldiers said there was concern the Khmer Rouge might attempt to lure government forces into a trap at Pailin by letting them take the town then counter-attacking in force to recapture it as they did recently.

The diplomat said Defence

Troops have since advanced to within 4 km, according to some sources, and expect the final assault within days (AFP photo)

# Sports

## Pistons, Bulls, Hornets, Hawks win thrillers

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — It was one of those nights in the NBA Friday when game after game goes down like a string of pearls.

In Phoenix, Joe Dumars hit a 15-foot jumper with 3.6 seconds left to cap a 30-point performance and lift the Detroit Pistons to a 114-113 victory over the Suns.

After Dumars' shot, Phoenix could not capitalise on a chance to win when Kevin Johnson drove the lane and, under heavy pressure from Terry Mills, missed a layup.

The lowly Pistons (18-46) showed signs of turning into giant killers as they improved to 3-0 on a current four-game road trip, including a victory at league-best Seattle Tuesday.

Charles Barkley scored a game-high 31 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Suns (41-22).

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 22 points, including a free throw with 40 seconds left that put Chicago up for good, and Steve Kerr made two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go as the Bulls beat the Seattle SuperSonics 87-84.

Seattle had two chances to tie but Kendall Gill, who had a game-high 23 points, and Gary Payton missed 3-pointers.

The Sonics, the only team that has clinched a playoff berth, dropped to 46-17.

The Bulls won for the fifth time in their last six games.

In Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning scored 21 points and blocked Karl Malone's potential game-tying shot in the final seconds as the Hornets overcame a first quarter in which they scored just eight points to defeat the Utah Jazz 82-78.

Hersey Hawkins added 18 points for the Hornets, who have won three straight and five of their last six.

Malone scored 21 points and snared 13 rebounds for the Jazz, who have lost three of their last four after a 10-game winning streak.

At Indiana, Danny Manning's slam dunk with 27 points to go helped the Atlanta Hawks snap the Pacers' 11-game home winning streak, 81-78.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kenya enter Kirui in world championships

NAIROBI (R) — World 5,000 metres champion Ismael Kirui of Kenya has been entered in the Budapest world cross country championships next Saturday as an individual, officials said Saturday. They said Kirui was entered after he apologised to the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) Friday for arriving home a week later than scheduled after running in San Vito, Italy. KAAA Chairman Isiah Kiplagat said Tecla Lorusso, fourth in the women's 10,000 metres at the Stuttgart World Championships, had apologised Saturday for also overstaying in Europe and the KAAA was considering whether to send her to Budapest. "It (her apology) might be too late," said Kiplagat, adding that Kenya's team was unchanged as Kirui was going as an individual. Both runners were dropped from the Kenyan team for Budapest earlier this week.

### Enza sailing at record breaking pace

LONDON (R) — Enza New Zealand continued to sail at record-breaking pace Friday in its bid to break the non-stop round-the-world record of 79 days and six hours. With just 18 days and little more than 4000 miles to the finish line in Brest, co-skippers Peter Blake (NZ) and Robin Knox-Johnston (GBR) had opened up a lead of 558 miles over French rivals Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumex. The next few days will be critical, however, as both enter the Doldrums and navigate their way through areas of no wind. "Our advantage over Lyonnaise has been increased from 90 miles in 19 hours," said Blake.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦A753 ♦VJ6 ♦AKJ4 ♦AKJ9  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?  
Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦Q986 ♦Q1053 ♦AKQ86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦A756 ♦VQJ785 OK 4J72  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?  
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦A756 ♦VQJ785 OK 4J72  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

## Faisali maintains comfortable lead as Wihdat advances to second place

By Aleem Bannayan

*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — With only five weeks left in the Kingdom's first division soccer championship, the only certain fact seems to be Al Faisali's undisputed 43 point lead atop the 12 team standings. The rest of the teams are vying either for an advanced position or trying to run away from the dim prospect of relegation in the case of the last four teams.

Although Al Faisali were held to a goalless draw against Al Qadissieh, they managed to keep a 12-point lead and are very close to retaining the title they have won in seven of the past 13 seasons.

Both teams had valid scoring chances in the second half of the match but Al Qadissieh's Mustafa Adam and Mazen Shahin, and Al Faisali's Jiryes Tadros were unsuccessful.

Al Faisali thus continued their remarkable second leg record of three wins and two draws which has enabled them to maintain 6th place for now.

Former champions Al Wihdat jumped to second place after a 2-2 draw against 8th-placed Al Arabi.

With most of their veterans now back on the team after settling a row with the club's board of directors, Al Wihdat burdened Al Arabi's defence with continuous attacks from the outset of the match.

Talal Raba'ah and Marwan Al Shamali stunned Al Arabi when they scored two consecutive goals in the 33rd and 35th minutes.

Al Arabi's Ahmad Subh managed to score a goal in the 45th minute, ending the first half 2-1.

As Al Wihdat concentrated on defence, Al Arabi did not give up and substitute Mohammad Alawneh equalised in the 87th minute.

In another match, Al Ramtha moved from 5th to 4th place after defeating

Sahab 2-0.

Al Ramtha needed the win not only to improve their standing, but to give their fans and players a moral boost after disappointing 4-2 and 3-1 defeats against Al Baqaa and Yarmouk.

Al Ramtha demonstrated their determination to win when striker Mouaffaq Abu Heidet attacked Sahab's goal but was tackled and awarded a penalty shot from which he scored the first goal in the first minute.

Although Sabah's Mohammad Al Ashhab and Mohammad Sabra put up a big effort, they seemed to lack accuracy, while Al Ramtha's veteran Rateb Al Daoud was instrumental in assisting his teammates to score their second goal in the 47th minute.

As lowly teams Al Yarmouk, Sahab, Fuheis, and Al Jazireh struggle to avoid relegation, their results in the upcoming weeks will be of utmost importance.

Fuheis' latest 4-2 win over Al Yarmouk might prove to be a crucial victory. They are now in 10th place and will next face Sahab.

Wa'ed Suweis gave Fuheis an early lead when he netted in the first goal in the 12th minute as Al Yarmouk's goal post prevented two definite chances.

Al Yarmouk equalised by Abdul Fattah Al Abbadi in

the 26th minute, but Fuheis again took the lead when Imad Mfrej scored in the 50th minute.

Khadar Mubarak assisted Suweis in scoring Fuheis' third goal in the 79th minute as they took a 3-1 lead before Yarmouk's striker Khaled Yousef blasted a powerful shot from outside the penalty zone in the 87th minute.

Fuheis scored Fuheis' fourth goal in the final minute of the match concluding his team's much needed win.

Al Ahli, the team that surprised most fans by holding on to 2nd place throughout most of the competition, this week dropped to third place after a 0-0 draw with Al Baqaa.

The result must surely have disappointed Al Ahli who have lost their form in the second leg of the competition losing 3-1 to Al Qadissieh, 2-0 to Al Faisali and 2-1 to Al Jazireh.

On the other hand, Al Baqaa seem to be on a comeback trail and have maintained a good record during the second leg.

They lately beat Al Fuheis 2-0, Al Ramtha 4-2, Al Arabi 1-0 and drew with Al Wihdat 1-1.

Nine matches are scheduled during the 18th week of the competition which will include three matches postponed because of weather conditions.

### Standings after 17th week

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali*	16	13	1	2	—	38	8	43
Wihdat*	16	7	4	2	3	17	13	31
Ahli	17	7	4	1	5	23	17	30
Ramtha	17	8	2	1	6	28	21	29
Hussein*	15	6	4	2	3	22	13	28
Qadissieh*	16	5	4	3	4	22	17	26
Baqaa	17	6	2	2	7	16	25	24
Arabi	17	4	5	—	8	20	32	22
Jazireh*	16	3	6	—	7	19	22	21
Fuheis	17	5	1	1	10	29	18	18
Sahab	17	3	3	2	9	15	24	17
Yarmouk	17	5	—	2	10	18	31	17

\* Teams with postponed matches.

## Harding begins life as convicted felon

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Tonya Harding got her mug shots and fingerprints taken at a downtown jail Friday to begin her life as a convicted felon.

"She was very quiet and demure when she came in," said Jeff Snyder, a Multnomah County community corrections supervisor. "This is a rather traumatic process for somebody to get into."

"This is the walking through the gate into the real world of being on probation."

In a deal with prosecutors, Harding, 23, pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to hinder prosecution in the attack on rival figure skater Nancy Kerrigan. Harding will serve no jail sentence but was placed on three years' probation.

That probation officially began Friday when she met with corrections officials. The case immediately was reassigned to Clackamas County, where Harding recently moved.

Normally, a person such as Harding would meet with her probation officer about once a month for the first 90 days, but she could be required to do so more often because of the relative complexity of her case, Lewis said.

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Normally, a person such as Harding would meet with her probation officer about once a month

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Saudi ambassador returned to Beirut**

BEIRUT (AP) — Ahmad Koheimeri, Saudi Arabia's first ambassador to Lebanon in 10 years, arrived Saturday to take up his post in Beirut. "I am happy to be in Lebanon, the oasis of Arab brotherhood and coexistence," Mr. Koheimeri said in an arrival statement at Beirut airport. Mr. Koheimeri served as ambassador to Lebanon in the late 1970s after the outbreak of the civil war. He was later transferred to Damascus. Saudi Arabia closed its embassy in Beirut after it was ransacked and burned in 1984 by extremists protesting restrictions on the number of pilgrims allowed to travel to Mecca. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd agreed last summer to reopen the embassy in response to a plea from Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

**Ugandans said to deny Israel arms link**

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan officials were quoted on Saturday as denying all knowledge of Israeli weapons on a plane stranded in Cyprus. Uganda had bought no arms for a year. Cypriot authorities insisted the consignment was bought by the Ugandan government but diplomats said there were suspicions it might be destined for elsewhere in Africa. The government-run New Vision daily newspaper quoted a foreign ministry official as saying: "Uganda has no diplomatic, political or economic relations with Israel and therefore we have nothing to fear." It also quoted a Defense Ministry official as saying Uganda had not bought any arms for the past year. Neither of the officials were named and the foreign ministry and defense ministry were not immediately available to comment.

**Lebanon says Pope plans to visit**

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's information minister said on Saturday he had no indication that Pope John Paul wants to cancel his visit after bomb blasts in Christian districts. Michel Samaha appealed to Muslims and Christians who oppose the visit to take a positive attitude towards it. "We have received no indications since the security incidents other than that the Pope insists on visiting Lebanon," Mr. Samaha told Voice of Lebanon radio. "I want to appeal to all the Lebanese who have doubts about this visit. I want to appeal to Lebanese who belong to the same spiritual family as the Pope and are not able to see the importance of the visit, to look on it as a blessing," Mr. Samaha said.

**Indian Supreme Court lifts ban on Muslim group**

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's supreme court has struck down a ban on the nation's biggest Islamic group, which was outlawed after Hindu-Muslim riots in 1992. The government had failed to justify the ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind. Justice P.B. Sawant and S. Mohan said in their order Friday. The ban violated constitutional guarantees to political action. Saturday's editions of the Times of India newspaper quoted the judges as saying.

**China, Israel to cooperate in aircraft work**

BEIJING (AP) — Israel's Rada Electronic Industries signed an agreement Saturday to set up an aircraft maintenance firm with a Chinese partner, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Rada's partner in the joint venture, to be called Beijing Tira Aircraft Components Services Co., will be the Beijing Tianzhu Forestry Development Co. Rada will provide 80 percent of the \$13 million investment for the joint venture, which will be located near the Beijing airport and cover 4,600 square metres. It will import four sets of Rada's Smart Cats automatic test equipment for use in testing and maintaining plane avionics. The new firm also will provide after-sale services and services-related technical consultations in aviation maintenance, Xinhua said.

**Kuwait rejects some meat as un-Islamic**

KUWAIT (R) — Foreign meat suppliers are flouting rules on Islamic slaughtering and Kuwaiti shops will ban their products unless they conform, a merchant said on Saturday. Mubarak Rashed Al Haifi, deputy director of the cooperative societies' union, said a union delegation found on a recent tour of producer countries that their methods of slaughtering chicken and cattle violated Islamic law. The team found only one country had a proper Islamic slaughterhouse, said Mr. Haifi, quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). He did not name the country but said he would do so if they do not change their ways, the agency said. Mr. Haifi said an unidentified Gulf country was importing horse meat from China and treating it and reexporting it to some countries, among them Kuwait, as beef products, he said.

**Student pilot killed in Tripoli crash**

CAIRO (AP) — A student pilot was killed Saturday in the crash of a Canadian-built passenger plane on a training flight near Tripoli, Libya's official news agency reported. The plane, a De Havilland Twin Otter, went down at Ben Ghishir, a suburb near Tripoli international airport. The aircraft commander was critically wounded, JANA said. The report monitored in Cairo did not say whether the plane was military or civilian and identified neither the pilot nor the commander. It indicated they were the plane's only occupants, but some versions of the aircraft carry around 50 people.

**Indian attacks on rise — Pakistan**

RAWALPINDI (R) — Indian forces fighting a separatist revolt in Kashmir have increasingly violated a ceasefire line dividing the disputed Himalayan region, a Pakistani army spokesman said on Saturday. He told reporters that the Indian attacks across the United Nations-monitored line targeted mainly civilians. "Every day three to four casualties take place," said Major-General Khalid Bashir, who put the total of killed and wounded on the Pakistani side at between 500 and 600 over six months. He said Pakistan had no plan to evacuate civilians from the border, which has been tense, throughout the four-year-long revolt by Muslims seeking independence or union with Pakistan.

**U.N. move fails to impress**

(Continued from page 1)

ren Christopher said that a return to the negotiations by Jordan, Lebanon and Syria would be "a strong impetus to the PLO to return and will make it considerably easier for the PLO to return."

An Israeli government delegation was expected to meet with the PLO leadership Sunday and present it with an Israeli government proposal on concrete steps to break the deadlock in peace talks.

"We expect the Israeli delegation to present us with the same proposal that was given to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat by Shimon Peres — a proposal which is not acceptable to us," said the Executive Committee member.

The proposal presented to Mr. Hussein contained the following points, according to PLO sources in Tunis:

"The merger of five separate settlements within the city of Hebron into a larger one which would house the 450 Jewish settlers in the city in a closed-off living sector in the Hadda area of Hebron."

"An increased presence of Red Cross officials as a concession so PLO request for an international armed presence in Hebron."

"Members of a 1,000-strong Palestinian police force — which existed before the intifada — be recalled to work alongside and under the auspices of Israeli police to assure greater security for the Palestinians in Hebron."

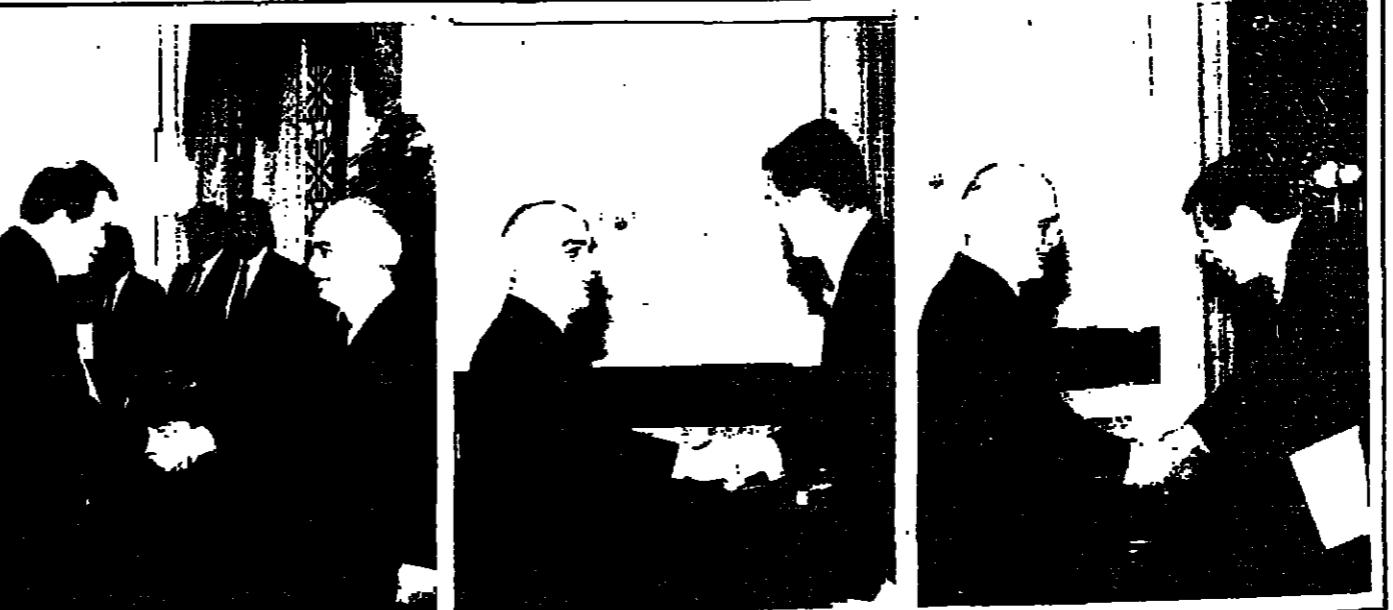
"The failure of the U.S. to maintain its policy of calling East Jerusalem an occupied territory has 'proved that it is neither an honest broker nor an evenhanded one,'" he said.

Although Mr. Arafat was ready to meet with Israeli officials, he was not willing to do so right after the recent massacre in response to a call for such a move by U.S. President Bill Clinton, popular and internal Palestinian pressure prevented him from doing so, according to reports.

Internal pressure has also

**Envoy present credentials**

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors to the Kingdom. The three were (left to right) Wesley William Egan of the U.S., Bernard Bajjalat of France and Oh Chung Il of South Korea. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

**Higher Education Ministry to be replaced by council**

AMMAN (Petra) — The government plans to eliminate the Ministry of Higher Education and introduce new legislation aimed at promoting higher education through the auspices of a higher education council, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saad Al Tai said Saturday.

Under the plan, the council would be entrusted with "steering and directing" the higher education system in Jordan, have been referred to the legislation bureau to be studied before they can be endorsed, the minister announced.

The draft laws deal with an

amendment to the present universities law and an applied sciences university.

The proposed amendment to the higher education law aims at creating boards of trustees for every state-owned university to draw up policies and supervise their respective institutions' functions, he said.

The draft law on an applied science university covers matters related to supervising and managing higher education outside the university like community colleges run by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and others, Dr. Tai said.

Dr. Tai told a press conference.

**Baghdad media hit U.S. over sanctions**

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi newspapers condemned the formal renewal of U.N. sanctions against their country on Saturday, portraying the United States as the enforcer of an embargo the world no longer wants.

"Now it is clear that the renewal of the blockade every two months can no longer be a solely American decision," the official Al Jumhouriya newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Diplomats believe that Iraq may have decided that there is little benefit in going along with U.N. demands after being put under pressure to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and to allow long-term monitoring of its military and civilian industries with no sign that the embargo will even be eased.

What direction that anger will take is not yet clear.

The influential Babel, published by President Saddam's eldest son, Uday, called the Security Council split over a statement on Iraq a "memo" to the United States.

"This memo told America that it must consider the interests of all the permanent members of the Security Council. Otherwise one or more of those members could cause problems for the United States within international organisations," the paper said.

There has been no formal reaction to the decision from the Iraqi government. Local correspondents said they did not expect one until Mr. Aziz had returned from talks at the U.N. in New York.

Few Iraqis had expected sanctions would be lifted as a result of Wednesday's deliberations at the U.N. but the lack of any definite time-frame offering the possibility of a future easing of the embargo has disappointed ordinary people.

"We want to see a light at the end of the tunnel. That's all we want to see," a civil servant said. "But we did not want to be named," he added.

Saturday's street protests in Baghdad were apparently organised by the regime.

More than 7,000 Iraqis gathered in the Karrada district of eastern Baghdad to protest the sanctions. They chanted slogans praising President Saddam.

"Lift the unjust sanctions imposed by the evil America," read one banner carried by the protesters who also waved Iraqi flags and life-size portraits of President Saddam.

The noisy demonstration dispersed peacefully after two hours.

**Iran rebel group claims hundreds killed in attacks**

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's main opposition group claimed Saturday it killed and injured hundreds of Iranian troops and crippled oil installations in a string of operations near the Iraqi border to mark the Iranian new year.

Gunned entered the Algiers area home of Yahia Djemal Benzaghou on Saturday and killed him, a hospital of Benzaghou, 52, who was a friend of Prime Minister Redha Malek. He was the 12th journalist slain since May last year.

The slaying came less than 24 hours after the Armed Islamic Group threatened new attacks on journalists and foreigners.

The group said in a message that it "opposes any dialogue, reconciliation or truce" with the government.

The group said its forces killed and injured more than 500 Revolutionary Guards in three separate attacks on Iranian military bases near the border with Iraq Friday.

The group said its forces paralysed an oil pumping station at Musian, on the border with Iraq, and inflicted heavy damage to oil pipelines in the Bayat region south of Dehloran Friday.

The Mujahedeen claims, which often are exaggerated, could not be independently confirmed. Iran's state media

**COLUMN****'Fergie' may stay married to Andrew**

LONDON (R) — Sarah Ferguson, the lively duchess who fell out with Britain's royal family, has hinted she has no plans to divorce her estranged husband Prince Andrew despite being legally free to do so from Saturday. Buckingham Palace tersely announced two years ago Saturday that the red-headed Duchess of York's marriage to the second son of Queen Elizabeth had failed and the couple were separating. But "Fergie", still wearing her ruby engagement ring and gold wedding band, was shown on television Friday scolding an interviewer who addressed her as Sarah Ferguson and said firmly: "I'm married — I'm the Duchess of York." Under British law a spouse can get a no-fuss divorce after two years of separation but friends say the duke and duchess are still on good terms despite the collapse of their 1986 marriage, which had followed a romance that captivated British royalists. They said the couple were keen to stay together for the sake of their daughter Princess Beatrice, now five, and Princess Eugenie, who will be four on March 23 — but reconciliation was not on the cards. Though still seen in public together, usually with their children, their lives have gone in very different directions. Prince Andrew, 34, himself a minor embarrassment to his family in his swinging bachelor days when he was nicknamed "Randy Andy", is quietly pursuing his career as a Royal Navy lieutenant. He has kept his silence since the separation but, while his wife, a few months his elder, has admitted to making "huge mistakes" and said she had felt stifled in the rule-bound royal court. The prince was said to be devastated by the departure of his wife who has described him as a lovable man who was just unable to understand her unhappiness.

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**Magazine says Diana looks 'dead common'**

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana tried to become a prima donna this year — but the public spotlight won't budge. This week, it's fixated on her clothes after a society magazine said she looked "dead common." The 32-year-old princess handed ammunition to the fashion snipers by turning up Tuesday in an eye-catching jacket, tie and belt decorated with gold elephants to see her newborn nephew, heir to her brother Earl Spencer. The headline-making fashion debate goes to the heart of the class system in Britain — where you are what you wear. The princess has a very aristocratic pedigree but lacks very taste, according to Tatler, a glossy society magazine.

"The Princess of Wales has dismissed her bodyguards, relinquished her public duties and, so it would appear, laid aside her style advisers," the magazine said. Then it unleashed the ultimate fashion insult, accusing Princess Diana of dressing like a woman from suburban Essex County, reputed habitat of the tasteless nouveau-riche. In Britain, everyone recognises the Essex girl: She totters around on high heels in slinky dresses or perfectly coordinated outfits, with lots of chunky gold jewelry and bouffant hair. Upper-class English girls, in contrast, buy expensive clothes "and then make them look as though you have spent only £2.50 (\$3.75) on them," former Tatler writer Daisy Waugh explained in the Evening Standard. If you're classy, she said, you never look provincial, never wear anything coordinated, "and never ever look as though you've tried."

"And poor old Princess Diana will keep trying," Ms. Waugh said.

**Cameroon president marries**

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroon's president Paul Biya, a widower aged 61, has married a 24-year-old beauty, her proud Lebanese foster parents said. Chantal is a very serious and very grateful person. Even if you just give her a sweet smile, she is grateful," Sabeh Azar, her foster father, told Reuters in one of his restaurants. "She is such a beautiful girl, so kind and modest. Oh, I do hope you meet her but it is difficult now because you need the authorisation of presidential security," said Nadia Hajal, her foster aunt. Mr. Biya's relationship with Chantal Vigoire has been the talk of Yaounde, Cameroon's capital. A divorcee, Mr. Biya has reportedly been courting Chantal since 1989. She is the daughter of a former president of the Central African Republic and a former minister of health in the country.

**Chemical heads for Aden**

YEMEN (R) — A South Korean company has asked to deal exclusively with a Yemeni leader who has reportedly been instrumental in getting the South Korean company to invest in the country. The company, Aden Chemicals, is planning to build a large petrochemical plant in Aden, the capital of the southern port city of Aden. The company is owned by a South Korean businessman who has reportedly been instrumental in getting the South Korean company to invest in the country.

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